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LD261413 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Tel Aviv Educational Television that he approves of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's "timely" call for an end to the violence in the territories, adding that Mubarak's initiative is "definitely a step forward on his part." Asked about IDF methods to quell disturbances, he said "the club or sticks policy was not chosen by us, it was a situation forced on us." However, the present situation could have been avoided "had my peace initiative not been blocked," Peres added.

Jerusalem television broadcast an interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in which he maintained that it has become increasingly evident "during the last few days and weeks" that an international conference will lead to "diktats" to which Israel will be forced to bow.

As for the situation in the occupied territories, IDF radio reported that the IDF used blows and tear gas to disperse a violent demonstration in Rafah. At least three U.S. citizens have complained to the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem that they were beaten by Israeli soldiers in the territories, Jerusalem radio noted. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in an interview with Jerusalem television's Arabic service that the policy of beatings "has attained the results we wanted," though he acknowledged that "digressions" from the rules must be "addressed." Rabin also told journalists that the IDF will need to deploy larger forces in the territories than in the past, according to Jerusalem radio.

Palestinian Radio Broadcasts

The head of Jerusalem radio's Arabic service warned that Israel may have to jam broadcasts by the new Palestinian radio station "which is apparently broadcasting from Syria," HADASHOT reported. The Palestinian radio has mentioned the names of Arabs employed by the Israeli administration in the territories, calling on them to resign, and IDF sources view such broadcasts as incitement to harm these people. The clandestine "Al-Quds" radio itself noted the possibility that it may be jammed, announcing that it will respond to "Zionist-U.S." jamming attempts by changing frequencies.

However, the new Palestinian radio was not only criticized by Israel, but also by Voice of the PLO, the PLO's main radio station in Baghdad, which accused the new station of transmitting "disinformation and distortion of facts" by placing the names of "our strugglers" on lists of alleged "enemy agents" in the Gaza Strip. Without directly naming this "suspect" radio, Voice of the PLO noted that it "recently began transmission from Damascus" and that it "seeks to don the Palestinian cloth."

Mubarak Tour

Following "intensive" talks in Bonn, visiting President Mubarak and FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl held a news conference to discuss the Egyptian president's Middle East initiative, according to MENA. Mubarak sought to reassure the Israeli public that an international peace conference "should not frighten anyone," as it "would not cause any solution to be imposed" from abroad and "would lead to direct talks" toward a solution. For his part, Kohl indicated that the FRG would "back and support" the proposal for such a conference and will present the initiative at the forthcoming EC meeting.

Iraq

War Reportage—Iraqi aircraft raided a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 26 January, a military spokesman told INA. In the I Army Corps northern sector, Iraqi troops killed 253 enemy personnel in an unsuccessful Iranian advance, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

'Aziz in Riyadh—Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz conveyed a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to Saudi King Fahd in the Saudi capital, Riyadh radio reported.

Kuwait

The amir has accepted the resignations of the communications and planning ministers, along with that of the minister of state for municipal affairs, KUNA reported 26 January.

Southern Sudan

SPLA forces "shot down" the government MIG-23 that crashed at Juba airport 23 January, according to the clandestine SPLA radio. A rebel spokesman dismissed official reports describing the crash as an accident, saying the aircraft was "definitely hit" by SPLA air defense forces.

An Armed Forces General Command statement confirmed that government troops have been evacuated from the Kapoeta area following "fierce fighting" with rebel forces who have been "besieging" the area for several days, SUNA reported. The statement affirmed the Armed Forces' determination to "regain and purge" Kapoeta as soon as possible.

Afghanistan/Pakistan

Khowst Fighting—Afghan mujahidin have "regained control" of the strategic Gardeyz-Khowst highway in eastern Paktia Province, AFP reported, citing Western and rebel sources in Islamabad. A rebel commander stated that during the 22 January fighting the mujahidin had forced Soviet-Afghan troops to retreat after several "fierce attacks".

In a separate clash, Islamabad radio reported the mujahidin captured a Soviet-Afghan base 30 km southwest of Khowst.

Bus Station Explosion—Nine people were killed when an explosion rocked a bus station in Mongara, near Peshawar, AFP reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further Reportage on Arab League Meeting

Kuwaiti Minister Comments

LD251619 Kuwait KUNA in English 1438 GMT 25 Jan 88

[By Jassim Matar]

[Text] Tunis, Jan 25 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and the accompanying delegation Monday left here at the conclusion of the emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers yesterday.

In a statement to KUNA, Shaykh Sabah underlined that resolutions of the meeting, which was called for by the the Palestine Liberation Organization to discuss the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, were fruitful and successful.

He said the uprising that has been raging there for the eighth running week, had gained worldwide support, hoping that the Palestinian upheaval would bear fruit in favor of the Palestinians and their representative, the PLO.

Shaykh Sabah said the Arab ministerial seven-man committee whch was formed yesterday will support the PLO and help it in presenting its cause in the United Nations and better investing it under the current circumstances.

A maximum ceiling of financial support was not set by the conference, Shaykh Sabah said, noting that popular and governmental committees have provided aid and support to the uprising.

According to a resolution issued at the meeting last night, financial support should continue, Shaykh Sabah said, believing that Arab people and governments would support the uprising even if there had been no resolution.

In response to a question Shaykh Sabah said the Arab seven-man committee which was assigned to follow up the Gulf war by the League's previous ministerial council in Baghdad, Iraq, has performed its task properly. He went on saying that the committee has reported on its contacts with other countries to the Arab League emergency meeting. The committee met last night at the residence of Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia.

Shaykh Sabah believed that the committee has achieved good results, expressing hope that an end would be reached to the tragic war particularly after Security Council Resolution 598. Shaykh Sabah hoped that warring parties would comply to logic to stop fighting, noting that Iraq has announced its acceptance of the resolution.

Concluding, Shaykh Sabah said mediation is not needed from any party between the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Iran because there is "no war between us". He added that the Gulf states are able to contact Iran through their diplomatic missions still functioning in Tehran or through their representatives or officials.

'Aziz Meets With Ben Ali

JN251814 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jan (INA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali met here today with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In a press statement following the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz said he conveyed to the Tunisian president a message of fraternity and amity from his brother, President Saddam Husayn, as well as the latter's heartfelt congratulations to the Tunisian president, people, and leadership and his wishes of continued prosperity and progress. He added that the message also included Iraq's appreciation for the pan-Arab stands adopted by the Tunisian people and leadership, foremost being the Tunisian president's stands supporting Iraq's just cause and its defense of Iraqi territory and sovereignty against the Iranian aggression. He asserted that Iraq takes great pride in this stand.

Tariq 'Aziz said he affirmed to the Tunisian president Iraq's desire to continue the relations of fraternity and cooperation with Tunisia in all fields, describing these relations as developed. He expressed the hope that these relations will be further promoted in the future. He added that he also discussed with the Tunisian president the current Arab situation and the situation in the Arabian Gulf region. The meeting was attended by Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri and Iraqi Ambassador in Tunis Taha Yasin al-'Ali.

It is worth noting that Tariq 'Aziz participated in the meetings of the Arab League Council's emergency session, which concluded its work here last night.

Ben Ali Receives Al-Masri

JN251816 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tunisian President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali received in Tunis this morning Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. Mr al-Masri said after the meeting that they discussed the current Arab situation, particularly the results of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis and the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. Mr al-Masri added that they also discussed economic and cultural relations between the two countries and ways of promoting them.

The meeting was attended by the Tunisian foreign minister and the Jordanian ambassador in Tunis.

More on Adopted Resolutions

JN251253 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jan (PETRA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the resolutions adopted by the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council provide important support for the courageous uprising by the kinfolk in the occupied land on both a political and a material level. In a statement to a PETRA correspondent in Tunis after the conclusion of the Council meeting, Al-Masri added that resolutions were also made to support the steadfastness of the kinfolk, which should enable the uprising to be sustained.

Given this unified and serious stand adopted by the Arab foreign ministers, the world and its international bodies, specifically the UN Security Council, must live up to their responsibilities and force Israel to accept an international conference as the only appropriate vehicle, the minister said.

Al-Masri noted that the Council had formed a committee comprising a number of Arab foreign ministers, including that of Jordan. This committee will meet soon to chart a strategy of action to unblock the peace process and promote a settlement through an international conference. He said that the uprising must be exploited in the interest of the goals it has set out to achieve—ending Israeli occupation and restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

In resolutions adopted yesterday, the Arab League Council affirmed complete support for the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in their brave confrontation and resistance to the Zionist repression, which is aimed against this people's lives and holy places. This support seeks to enable the Palestinian people to sustain their uprising and to exercise their legitimate right to resist the Zionist terrorism and violence in order to end the occupation.

The Council saluted with pride and dignity the Palestinian people for their valiant uprising in their occupied homeland. It praised their national unity and heroic, self-denying confrontation of the Israeli acts of repression and annihilation.

The Council condemned the Zionist occupation's crimes against the struggling Palestinian people—crimes that include killings, deportations, mass arrests, imposing starvation sieges, withholding medicines, attacking holy places, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque, as well as learning and health institutions, demolishing houses, and land confiscation and settlement.

The Council called on world states to pressure the Zionist authorities to stop their repression of the heroic Palestinian people and to impose effective sanctions against those authorities for their crimes against all mankind, which pose a threat to international peace and security.

The Council decided to continue material and political support for the Arab people in the occupied territories to enable them to continue their struggle to end the occupation.

The Council affirmed the need for a pledge by the member states to provide the means of steadfastness and living for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The Council called for an intensive media campaign on the international level to isolate the Zionist entity in the world, to condemn its practices and expose its acts of annihilation, to confirm the Palestinian people's right to defend their land and their national inailenable rights, and to confront the Zionist news media.

The Arab League Council has decided to form a committee made up of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, and Algeria and the head of the PLO Political Department, in addition to the Arab League secretary general. The task of this committee is to lay down a joint Arab action plan to implement the resolutions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This includes the definition of a joint Arab trend in the United Nations and the holding of contacts with the permanent members of the Security Council, other countries' officials, and the various international groups, organizations, and committees. These contacts will be held to gain support for the march of just and comprehensive peace and to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East on the basis of the Arab summits' resolutions.

The Arab League Council has called on the Security Council to shoulder its full responsibilities vis-a-vis the Zionist entity's violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territory, and to force the Zionist entity to immediately stop these violations and to return the deportees to their homeland pursuant to the Security Council resolutions to this effect.

The Arab League Council has charged the Arab League General Secretariat with monitoring and following up the serious violations perpetrated by the Zionist entity in the occupied Arab territory. These violations constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Council charged the General Secretariat with communicating these violations one by one to the UN secretary general to distribute them as documents of the United Nations and the Security Council. The Council has also charged the Arab League General Secretariat with contacting the Arab ministerial councils and the competent organizations to explain to their international and regional counterparts the serious situation in the occupied territory, and to announce their support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

The Arab League Council has expressed thanks to all friendly peoples and governments which voiced support for the Palestinian people in their struggle against the

Israeli occupation. The Council also paid tribute to the efforts by friendly and unbiased news agencies all over the world to relay the real facts of the Palestinian struggle in the occupied territory and to expose the occupation authorities' brutality and violations of the UN Charter and resolutions, as well as the international agreements.

Further on Al-Masri's Address

JN251219 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Jan 88 p 3

["Text" of speech by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri at the Arab League Council meeting held at the foreign ministers' level in Tunis on 23 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Highnesses, Excellencies: The uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the critical situation there has reached the boiling point. This uprising and the all-out revolution against the Israeli occupier and usurper are the natural and spontaneous reactions of a people who reject the continuation of the occupation and who have reached the stage at which they can no longer endure more suffering. This show of courage and spirit of sacrifice has won for our people the admiration of the entire world. It has also driven the enemy against the wall, exposing its designs and plans to swallow up and Judaize the Arab territory, as well as its blind hatred and inhuman actions. In fact, the Zionist entity has been denounced and condemned even by its own allies for taking such actions against a people whose territory has been occupied for more than 20 years.

Although the overwhelming popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza has been going on now for more than a month and a half, all signs indicate that it is still in its early stages. Our people under occupation have enormous resources. They are determined to make more sacrifices and shed more of their pure blood in defense of their right to a respectable life away from humiliation and tyrannical rule by the occupiers. They are especially determined since the peace process has stumbled and there are no signs of a just peaceful settlement guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The lessons which the arrogant enemy leaders must learn from this uprising is that their military power, which has delayed Israel's major obligations for a long time, is now crippled before the present Israeli dilemma, which is intensifying and deepening day after day with every confrontation here and there in the streets of the towns and villages of the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The uprising has shown our people to be strong and powerful. The Zionist enemy has been shown to be an occupier who has lost control and is unable to restore the situation to what it used to be, even by resorting to the most savage and bestial methods of suppression.

The popular uprising waged by our people in the occupied territory derives its strength from within itself and from the factors of coercion and torture accumulated throughout the long years of occupation. This uprising has made Israel incapable of entrenching its occupation despite the establishment of settlements, the desecration of mosques, and the encroachment on Al-Aqsa and 'Umar Mosques and turning them into arenas for repression and aggression. This matter has stirred up world condemnation and made his holiness the pope condemn and denounce these practices. This is in addition to the unjust economic measures, the closure of schools, the abolition of liberties, and the siege of camps. All these acts are accompanied by racism and challenges. They have made our steadfast kinfolk prove to the occuaption forces and to the entire world that their struggle is limitless, continuous, and rejuvenating. They have also proven that their struggle gains strength and vitality each day. Our kinfolk are recording shining pages in Arab history—pages of a heroic epic of steadfastness that kindle Arab determination. They write with letters of light a unique method of resisting and confronting occupation through an unprecedented popular uprising. It is the right way to begin to force the Israeli aggressor to review its schemes and calculations. The uprising has exposed the Israeli aggressor before the entire world, stripped it of the false democratic guise, and unveiled its racist face. The split in the Israeli political forces vis-a-vis the uprising, the commendation of the uprising by world leaders, officials, and heads and members of political and humanitarian international organizations, and the condemnation of the Israeli practices are evidence of the soundness of all these meanings.

In light of this criminal Israeli onslaught, it seems to us that the Israeli and Iranian challenges are converging twins who reject peace principles and international initiatives in this regard. On one hand, we see Israeli aggression against the Palestinian Arab people and on the other we see Iranian aggression against Iraq and Iranian insistence on continuing this aggression. We also see Iran rejecting Security Council Resolution 598 and expanding this war by launching aggressions on fraternal Kuwait, threatening the Arabian Gulf, and creating sedition in the holy places in Mecca, thereby encroaching on the sovereignty and security of sisterly Saudi Arabia. At the same time, Iraq responded from the position of strength to all honest initiatives to end the fighting and achieve peace.

Your Highnesses, Excellencies. A close look at the report submitted by the UN secretary general to the Security Council on the serious developments and events in the occupied Arab territory reveals the strength of the positive evidence contained in the report. This evidence condemns Israel and its actions against the Palestinian Arab people and supports and champions Arab rights. Thus we are all bound to exploit that international report and its positive aspects by balanced and well-studied action and by pursuing an alert and wise political course through which we can reflect the magnificence of the uprising and ensure its success and escalation. That will give it momentum and impetus. It will also help to make the report successful. Consequently, it will enable us to advocate such successful action to achieve the hopes of our kinfolk and the aspirations of our nation. It will also enable us to ward off the failure and frustration which, should they occur, God forbid, will have dire consequences and inflict great harm.

A unified, strong, and effective Arab stand in that direction, a wise and objective political action on the international level, is a pressing matter of great importance. We have a clear and vivid recent example of such action. The alert political efforts and the well-studied international action by our brothers in fraternal Iraq throughout a long period, coupled with and supported by shrewd Arab political action, achieved the adoption of Security Council Resolution 598. We must take that experience and example as a lesson to help us to find the way and illuminate the path for our coming steps, despite the difficulties and complications that require us to make an effort and to be watchful. Thus we can foil Israel and compel it to submit to the international will and assist in fanning the popular uprising and extending it further support. That has been expressed by the Arab League Council resolution. The uprising has imposed itself powerfully and courageously on the international community. The Security Council adopted Resolutions 605 and 607. The uprising also yielded Security Council Resolution 608, which expressed the international community's condemnation of Israel's decision to deport Palestinians and calls on it to ensure their immediate return.

In light of all of the above facts, our meeting must come up with a plan of action on three fronts.

The first front: There must be Arab action at the United Nations. We must exploit the world support won by the uprising and the international community's acceptance of the principle of establishing peace and achieving a just, comprehensive, and honorable settlement through a UN-sponsored international conference.

Hence, the Amman summit's formula on the international conference remains an ideal one, which we should adopt and on which we should rely. This formula stipulates that convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East—under UN auspices, to be called by the UN secretary general and to be attended by the permanent Secretary Council members along with all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing—is the appropriate and only way to attain a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement of the conflict. Such a settlement will guarantee regaining the occupied Arab territories and resolving the Palestine question in all its aspects. It will also ensure the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights.

In this context, I propose the formation of an Arab working team at the foreign ministers level to hold contacts first with the permanent Security Council members and the UN secretary general, as well as with other members, with the aim of creating a continued momentum to promote the results of the uprising as a prelude to the convening of the international conference. Moreover, we should earnestly consider Articles 53, 54, 55 of the UN secretary general's report submitted to the Security Council. We hope this meeting, while we are on the threshold of a new phase calling on all of us to have further wisdom and foresight, will be the beginning of an intensive and planned move in this direction and also the start of a countdown for a comprehensive and just solution.

The second front: Launching an intensive Arab move in the direction of other world countries, particularly the European states and their affiliated institutions, to increase political, moral, and economic pressure on Israel and its practices that violate both the 1949 Geneva conventions and international norms.

The third front: For the uprising to maintain its momentum, strength, and continuity, the Arab world must provide material and political support to the uprising and its sublime meaning. In this regard, I can only express a profound welcome for the Soviet proposal calling for immediate consultations among the permanent Security Council members on drawing up a mechanism to convene an international conference. I call on my colleagues to join my welcome.

Your Highnesses, Excellencies: Jordan has expressed its support for and pride in the popular uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It has also taken a number of measures to consolidate the kinfolk's steadfastness, thereby preventing the enemy from implementing its schemes. Jordan has also exposed the enemy practices out of its belief in the justness of the cause and in the need to promote struggle against the usurping occupier, and also out of its eagerness to defend both the Arab causes and the unity of the Arab stand, which was embodied in the summit of reconciliation and accord in Amman and in the new Arab reality as a result of this summit. This has prepared the arena for a genuine joint Arab action and for an effective solidarity in the face of all challenges posed to the Arab nation. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Arab Parliamentary Union Meets in Tunis

Ben Ali at Opening Session

LD251534 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1324 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Address by President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali at the opening of the 18th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union in Tunis—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your excellency the chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, your excellency the speaker of the House of Deputies, your excellencies the members of the diplomatic corps, your excellencies our gracious guests:

It is my pleasure, on my behalf and on behalf of the Tunisian Government and people, to greet you in a sincere and brotherly way and to welcome you to your second country, Tunisia, where the headquarters of the Arab League are situated. It also gives me pleasure to host the proceedings of the Council of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which gathers the representatives of the Arab peoples at its 18th session.

We are proud to organize this Arab meeting on the Islamic and Arab Tunisian land, one of moderation and civilized coexistence, in which man has a distinguished position characterized by dignity, pride, and freedom, and in which he feels security and justice which confirm his faith in his humaneness, in his openness to others, who are a necessary extension of his existence and secure his fate and destiny.

Your Excellencies, gracious guests, your council is convening at a time when Tunisia is busy trying to embody the statement of 7 November 1987, containing orientations which, on the domestic level, seek to implant the democratic process in keeping with the development and progress of our people, and with its aspiration to participate in running its own affairs. They reflect Tunisia's concern to abide by its international commitments, and to play its role in consolidating Arab solidarity by contributing to the reinforcement of the brotherly relations of cooperation with its sister Arab countries, to consolidate the historical ties and the common fate.

Brothers and sisters, out of our full awareness of the inevitability of Arab cooperation, we in Tunisia do not spare any effort in cooperating with our brothers in order to set a common policy. We will achieve the safeguarding of our interests by positively contributing toward reestablishing a balance in international political and economic relations, by facing up to the challenges and to the blocs which characterize the current international situation and which require that we carry out a united Arab action within the framework of an integrated pan-Arab plan.

The challenges facing our Arab nation are numerous and dangerous, and they have not ceased. This requires that all members of the Arab family work seriously and efficiently to consolidate its ranks. This will not be possible as long as we, governments and parliamentarians, do not treat the situation in a realistic and composed way, far from all the dissension and conflict which threaten the common Arab action.

On this basis we in Tunisia consider the cleansing of the Arab atmosphere an urgent task required by the present Arab phase. It is not acceptable that the Arab action should always be reacting to events and that our enemies should continue to impose faits accomplis on us, as is the case regarding the decisions made by Israel in its persistent usurpation of Arab land and continued aggression against the peoples of our Arab nation at the forefront of which is the struggling Palestinian people.

On this occasion, in my own name and on behalf of the Tunisian Government and people, I convey to the brother representatives of the Palestine National Council the salutations of the sons of Tunisia and of its youth, and their admiration for their brother Palestinians who have demonstrated such defiance and steadfastness in the face of the brutal enemy. They have honored the Arabs and raised their heads high.

Brothers and sisters, the decisions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman have come to express the aspirations and hopes of the Arab nation, to express solidarity with sister Iraq, to respond to all peace initiatives, to demand implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598; to stand by Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to insist on recovering all Arab territories and noble Jerusalem, to support the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East, to stress Lebanon's unity and its Arab character and help it to overcome its crisis, and to condemn international terrorism. This unanimity which was achieved at the Amman summit draws for you, parliamentarians, the plan upon which your endeavor to find the aspired-for solution must rest. Being the representatives of the Arab peoples, you have to appreciate these decisions correctly and work to support them in all arenas, relying on the legitimacy of the issue and on the understanding of Arab and international public opinion to accept the international legitimacy and to consider it the basis for resolving all issues in question.

Ladies and gentlemen, whether the question relates to the struggle of the Palestinian people against Zionist colonization in order to affirm their right to self-determination and establish their independent state on their national land, or to the struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia against the hated racial segregation, our defense is one and the same—of the just cause, and our voice rises strong and united in respect to the United Nations Charter and in defense of human rights, in deploring Zionist and racist policies and every action seeking to endanger the sovereignty of states, their territorial integrity, at imposing faits accomplis and consequently aimed at threatening security and peace in the world.

This solidarity, which should be emphasized within our Arab nation, will lead our action toward further strengthening the brotherly relations of deeply rooted cooperation among our peoples. These gatherings furnish the best opportunity to stress Arab solidarity and the importance of your role, as parliamentarians, in supporting the efforts of your governments in the course of laying down strong foundations for the relations of cooperation and for opening new horizons before them.

Dear honorable guests, once again I say to you, you are welcome. And to everyone present I wish you a comfortable stay. I wish your session every success toward whatever enhances the relations of brotherliness, cooperation, and solidarity between our Arab peoples. Unite all of you around the faith of God and disperse not. God has told the truth. Peace be upon you.

Jordan's Al-Fayiz Cited

JN251343 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and Chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] Mr 'Akif al-Fayiz has praised the extraordinary Arab summit, held in Amman in November, saying it emobdied hopes and aspirations of pan-Arab action.

Addressing the APU 18 session, which opened in Tunis today, Mr al-Fayiz paid tribute to His Majesty King Husayn's significant role during the summit, which made it a success. Mr al-Fayiz lauded the popular upsurge in the occupied Arab territory saying it has gained international support for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Mr al-Fayiz called for intensive efforts to bring the war to an end, and halt the Iranian threat on the security of the Arab Gulf.

Syria's Rida Speaks

JN260849 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Dr 'Ali Rida, deputy speaker of the People's Assembly, has called for supporting the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people in southern Lebanon and in the Golan so that our nation can realize its desire for liberation and unity.

During the second meeting of the 18th session of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] held in Tunisia this afternoon, Dr Rida stressed Syria's pan-Arab stands vis-a-vis Arab causes, praising the heroic actions of the Palestinian Arab people and the Lebanese national resistance. He commended the stands of the socialist bloc countries regarding Arab causes, especially the Soviet Union. Cooperation and friendship with the Soviet Union, he said, constitute a strategic element in confronting the aggression.

Concluding his speech, Dr Rida called on the APU to play an effective role and to move Arab policies toward the battle of pan-Arab destiny. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns 'Inhuman Zionist Policies'

LD200945 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] United Nations, Jan 20 (KUNA)—The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Tuesday strongly condemned the inhuman Zionist policies and practices by the Israeli troops against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The condemnation was contained in a communique issued by the OIC here at the end of a meeting called for by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to consider the grave situation in the territories, in particular the desecration of the Muslim holy places there.

The communique called upon the U.N. to provide protection to ensure the safety for the Palestinians under Israeli occupation and called for an investigation, under the auspices of the U.N. and the International Red Cross, to determine the magnitude of the heinous crimes committed by Israel.

It further called upon the Security Council members to take deterrent measures against Israel, including the imposition of sanctions in accordance with Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter.

The OIC members attending the meeting asked their chairman, Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad 'Abd al-Hasan, to convey their salute to the Palestinian people, through their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO.

They also asked him to express their pride in their uprising and to declare their solidarity with and support for the glorious Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

Israeli troops opened fire last Friday on worshippers while performing their prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque and at the Dome of the Sacred Rock, causing a number of deaths and scores of injuries that demanded hospital treatment.

Chairing the meeting, Ambassador Muhammad 'Abd al-Hasan said the desecration of the holy shrines in Al-Quds is unacceptable and punishable not only by God but also by all peace loving people whether they are Muslims, Christians or Jews.

He said the OIC members should study this serious escalation and put an end to it by all means available.

The Kuwaiti representative, Sabah Khalid Hamad al-Sabah, expressed to the members his country's and people's concern over the Israeli repressive practices against the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, particularly in the Islamic holy places.

He said the Israeli desecration of those places is a dangerous matter which hurts the feelings of all Muslims everywhere and represents Israel's gross violations of all international laws and conventions as well as Israel's disregard for the spiritual and moral values and for civilisation.

"It is the responsibility of the entire Islamic nation to support this uprising and to protect the Islamic holy shrines," Al-Sabah told the meeting.

He called for solidarity with those resisting the occupation, for a stronger and more generous Islamic stand to support the Palestinian struggle and for an international move to gain support for this revolution.

The PLO deputy representative Riyad Mansur told KUNA "We thank the ambassador of Kuwait, chairman of the Islamic Conference, for the prompt calling for this emergency meeting."

He said this represents a reflection of the sisterly relationship between the Palestinian people and the PLO on one hand and the people and the Government of Kuwait on the other.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian 'Uprising' Command Statement

JN242051 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1802 GMT 24 Jan 88

["Text" of statement issued in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by the "Unified Command of the Uprising;" date not given]

[Text] O masses of our heroic struggler people; O brothers of martyrs and comrades on the long and difficult path: The regimes of treason and conspiracies are desperately trying to foil the uprising of our heroic people under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Through exposed means, desperate methods, and clear harmony between the occupation authorities and some Arab regimes, as well as through media campaigns, propaganda, and the crocodile tears of the Amman regime, they seek to separate our people's leadership, the PLO, from our people and from the uprising being staged by our people. The PLO is the only party concerned with supporting and escalating all forms of struggle against the plot and the occupier enemies.

What do some Arab regimes have now after this uprising except their disappointment and hiding behind exposed slogans and claims? What do these regimes have other than shame and disgrace, which has stained the faces of all Arab regimes? [passage indistinct] How can these regimes claim and pretend to be concerned about the sons of our people, whom they have stabbed hundreds of times? Our people will never forget the black history of these regimes.

O masses of the deep-rooted uprising, while you are aware of the attempts to contain your gigantic uprising, we are all required to continue firmly to deal successive blows to the occupation soldiers and the settlers' herds. We are also required to continue this uprising by all means—by strikes, stones, barricades, and slingshots. Let every child and youth have a slingshot. Let them fling stones and marbles at the occupation soldiers and all the agents and traitors who do not respond to the uprising's calls.

Let us strike with steel-hard arms and fight on all fronts. We are the ones who will achieve victory and we are now the victorious. Let us throw Molotov cocktails at enemy concentrations and assembly areas and at all kinds of agents. Your revolution calls on you to continue your sacrifices. Your revolution has confidence in you. Continuing your uprising and achieving daily victories rests with you. Palestine is now enjoying victories. Together we safeguard the will of the martyrs, the wounded, and the detainees along with their pledges and promises.

Greetings to you all. Greetings to all our people's sectors. You and your revolution are honorably defending the dignity of all the treasonous regimes and the dignity of the Arab nation. We are telling the Arabs for the millionth time: We want your swords, not your good wishes. Let all the common denominators between the Zionists and the treasonous regimes go to hell. Ignominy to all attempts to contain our heroic people's uprising.

Let our glorious mammoth uprising continue under the PLO, our sole and legitimate representative. Let earth shake under the feet of the invaders. Let the faces of all traitors, the misled, and agents be burned. Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs.

[Signed] The Unified Command of the Uprising in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip

Baghdad PLO Radio Warns of 'Suspect Radios'

JN251957 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Communique to "our heroic masses in occupied Palestine;" date not given]

[Text] A radio station, which recently began transmission from Damascus, seeks to don the Palestinian cloth. This radio station began transmitting a campaign of disinformation and distortion of facts, placing the names of our strugglers on lists it claims as being those of enemy agents in the heroic Gaza Strip.

We in the voice of the Palestinian revolution, the Voice of the PLO, urge our heroic masses to guard against such suspect radios out of concern for our heroic strugglers' reputation, whose militant record the enemy seeks to tarnish.

Chad

Libyan Planes Overfly Bardai, Zouar 21 Jan
AB221947 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] As part of Libya's dilatory tactics, the Libyan Air Force flew over Bardai and Zouar yesterday at 0700 [0600 GMT] and (?0715) respectively.

France Signs Financial-Education Agreement
AB222058 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] A financial agreement was signed between France and Chad at the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation this morning. The agreement is worth 250 million CFA francs. Our reporter Aicha Abderhamane will now tell us more about it:

[Begin recording] This agreement will enable Chad to pursue its undertakings in the educational system, notably in the training of Chadian teachers to handle teaching aids and equipment. The Chadian side was represented at the signing ceremony by Saleh Mahreb, secretary of state for planning and cooperation, and the French side by Mr Jacques Compagnon, the head of the French mission of cooperation and culture. Also present at the cremony were Mr (Awada Angui), Chad's deputy director at the Ministry of Cooperation, and (Jean-Claude Annet), France's adviser at the cooperation mission. [end recording]

Sahel Drought Committee Ministerial Meeting
AB242014 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The 23d session of the Council of Ministers of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ICDCS] opened in Ndjamena this afternoon. The solemn opening ceremony took place in the conference hall of the large Faycal Mosque of Ndjamena in the presence of members of government, members of the National Consultative Council of the Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations, and ICDCS experts. Our minister of agriculture, Wadal Abdel Kader Kamougue, who was the first to address the meeting, underlined the difficulties facing our states and the need to conjugate our efforts to face up to the challenge. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak To Visit Tunisia at End of Tour
NC252220 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—In its edition which will appear tomorrow, Tuesday, AL-AKHBAR newspaper reports that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will visit Tunisia at the end of his European and U.S. tour. It should be recalled that he will visit Morocco on the last leg of his current tour.

Al-Biltaji on Mubarak's 'Peaceful Initiative'
NC251700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Bonn, 25 Jan (MENA)—Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the Public Information Authority and a member of the delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak on his tour that began today with a visit to Bonn, has said that the purpose of the tour is to create the appropriate international mechanism for making serious progress toward holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East and for maintaining the impetus of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. He noted that any uprising that is not exploited diplomatically and politically will start to erode and will have taken place in vain.

In an interview with the MENA corespondent in Bonn, Dr al-Biltaji said the principal aims of President Mubarak's recent peace initiative are to give an impetus to the peace process, urge the parties concerned to move toward negotiations that will guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and end the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories. These goals are given particular emphasis through the Palestinian uprising, he stated, by which the Palestinian people have (?said) they do not accept the status of occupation, despite the passage of 20 years.

Dr al-Biltaji stressed here that the timing of President Mubarak's tour was carefully chosen to exploit the situation that has exploded in the occupied Arab territories and the existence of trends in international opinion that are sympathetic to the Arab issue in the wake of the Palestinian uprising. The uprising, he continued, has made the world realize that the issue could explode and that its consequences could affect many parties.

The Egyptian official said that the Palestinian uprising was a direct message to the Israeli Government and the entire world to the effect that 20 years of occupation have not killed the issue and that the Israeli concept of peace is "a fragile one," liable to erupt at any time. He noted that Egyptian diplomacy understands this message and decided to take action at the international level by means of the tour President Mubarak began today.

Dr al-Biltaji noted that all parties which are serious about the matter should not cease action or stop undertaking the necessary initiatives to achieve peace in the Middle East, regardless of the negative stands adopted by some. He added this was the basis for President Mubarak's initiative. Its aim, he said, is to take advantage of the situation so we will not keep lamenting our lost opportunities. He stressed the need to exploit all the opportunities that present themselves, develop the factors for success, and propose new concepts and initiatives so we may achieve our strategic aims.

Dr al-Biltaji added that President Mubarak's recent peaceful initiative is aimed at achieving several objectives: to establish a just peace in the Middle East as unanimously agreed upon by the Arabs, the Palestinians, and the EC; to uphold international law; to terminate Israeli military occupation of the occupied territories; and to allow the Palestinian people to enjoy their legitimate rights and their right to self-determination.

In this respect, the head of the Public Information Authority stressed that if these objectives are to be attained, political efforts must be exerted on the international diplomatic level to ensure the success of the quest. Intensive consultations should take place and Arab views on ways to establish peace in the region should be explained, he said. In this connection, he referred to President Mubarak's recent tour of the GCC countries, Iraq, and Jordan. He pointed out that Mubarak's Arab tour and his current tour are inseparable. The two form part of the present comprehensive national Egyptian strategy. Thanks to this strategy and to President Mubarak's policies, Egypt has managed to set its Arab and international relations on the right track, he added.

According to Dr al-Biltaji, President Mubarak's recent tour of the Gulf region produced important results. It augmented Arab solidarity and contributed to the emergence of a unified Arab standpoint on the outstanding issues in the region, particularly the Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Regarding Egypt's position on the ongoing Gulf war, Dr al-Biltaji told MENA's Bonn correspondent that Egypt's objective was, and still is, to see an end to the bloodshed between these two Muslim countries by means of mediation and peaceful negotiations. At the same time, and in parallel with this peaceful line, Egypt stands beside Iraq and supports it on the political, diplomatic, and defense levels, he added. This position arises from the fact that Iraq is an Arab country defending its land and with which we are connected by a Collective Arab Defense Pact. Furthermore, Iraq has accepted UN Security Council Resolution 589 on the Gulf war, he stated.

Dr al-Biltaji went on to say that based on the foregoing, President Mubarak's Gulf tour was an opportunity to exchange views with the Gulf leaders on a peaceful end to this war. He stressed in this respect that President Mubarak's exchanges with the leaders of the Gulf states and other Arab countries enabled a unified Arab position to be presented before the entire world. Consequently, the world is now beginning to deal with the Arabs as a single party with a unified view on all the issues affecting the region.

Paper Says Uprising 'Siege' on Israel

NC231110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM affirms that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories has actually laid a kind of multi-faceted siege on Israel.

In its editorial to be published Saturday, the paper notes that this siege is represented by successive UN and Security Council resolutions, the stands of world media and the Vatican's Pope John Paul II, and worldwide demonstrations and protests. It says this siege has expanded to include the Israeli [word indistinct] itself, where differences have emerged as a result of these pressures and its Cabinet has become divided. Furthermore, some officials, such as the mayor of Tel Aviv, have publicly called for relinquishing the West Bank and Gaza in return for peace.

The paper expresses hope that all these foreign and domestic pressures will dismantle the Israeli siege. It stresses that despite the uprising, which has turned the table on Israel, the latter is still clinging to illusions, insisting on pursuing its march against the path of history, and introducing new weapons every day, weapons it thinks will be more deterring.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM urges Arab countries and the world community to exploit this opportunity and take urgent action to pressure Israel into resolving the longstanding Palestinian issue, which some people thought would fade away.

Lebanon Hopes To Restore Diplomatic Relations

NC261355 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan 26 (MENA)—Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil wishes to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt before his term expires in summer. Assurances to this effect have been made to the Egyptian Government, according to a report published by the Lebanese newspaper "AL-NAHAR" today.

Al-Nasr Carries Mubarak Message to Kuwait

NC261408 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1341 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Justice Minister Counsellor Faruq Sayf al-Nasr left Cairo for Kuwait this afternoon on an official 3-day visit at the invitation of Kuwaiti Justice Minister Dari al-'Uthman.

Counsellor Sayf al-Nasr stated before departure he is carrying a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak to his brother Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and a similar message from Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister Returns from Qatar 25 Jan

NC251511 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab returned from Doha this afternoon at the end of a 4-day visit to Qatar. During his visit, he gave Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn

Hamad Al Thani a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak. He also attended the opening of the Egyptian trade fair there. On his return he said he is bringing a verbal message from the amir of Qatar to President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Address Marks OAU Silver Jubilee

NC251023 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reaffirmed the Egyptian people's stand in support of the African Continent's peoples in their courageous battle for political and economic freedom and against racial discrimination. He said the Egyptian people support the continent's peoples in confronting future responsibilities [words indistinct] to affirm their identity, determine their future, and make up for the backwardness imposed on them over the past centuries.

In his address marking Egypt's celebrations of the OAU's silver jubilee, President Mubarak said: The Egyptian people, here at the entrance to the continent, are still performing their historical duty toward the rest of the continent's peoples with awareness and determination, [word indistinct] full of responsibility and affection, as they have always done.

In the speech, which was delivered on his behalf by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, President Mubarak called on African peoples to unify, consolidate, coordinate, diversify, and combine their efforts with increased financial potential and ability to take initiatives.

In his message, President Mubarak praised the OAU's efforts, saying the organization has undertaken three responsibilities: liberating all African soil from foreign dominance; providing an atmosphere of peace and security for the continent; and utilizing resources and potential to build the African society through a comprehensive socioeconomic development process. He described the OAU as the fort that protects the peoples of the continent and their solidarity and the organization that shows the African peoples' distinguished identity on the international scene.

The president mentioned the challenges facing the African Continent, noting that the most annoying of these is the incomplete African liberation. He affirmed in this connection that the odious South African regime still embodies the real danger to the future development and progress of the African peoples.

He pointed out that the crimes of the racist white regime in Pretoria are not limited to the continued aggression against the oppressed black peoples in South Africa and Namibia, but extend flagrantly and in a terrorist manner to neighboring African states, threatening stability and disrupting security throughout the continent.

President Mubarak lauded the confrontation states' peoples for their steadfast position and courageous confrontation of their unjust neighbor. He said: Africa's struggle against South Africa is not confined to the boundaries of Africa, but extends further—to the international arena. All honest, conscientious people stand by our struggle.

Regarding the difficult economic situation in Africa, President Mubarak affirmed it is considered a manifestation of the problems facing the developing countries. He pointed out that the accumulation of structural defects in the African economies and their mounting foreign debts, in light of the continuing world crisis, have all been compounded by drought, desertification, and natural disasters.

President Mubarak said the time has come for the international public to become aware of the tragedy facing Africa, noting that despite colossal efforts to achieve economic development, its profits disappear because of unending debts, from which our toiling peoples have achieved no tangible economic benefit.

President Mubarak pointed out that the tragic economic situation in Africa is basically the result of the accummulation of debt arrears, as well as the continuous increase in interest rates, shortage of capital flow, and continuous reduction in export revenue as a result of the quickly deteriorating international economic structure, which in turn is affected by monetary practices and protective measures.

President Mubarak called on the creditor countries to sit at the same table with the African debtor countries to discuss the best ways to emerge from the current impasse, which is aggravating relations without justification and frustrating the chances of achieving fresh progress between the two sides and for all mankind.

President Mubarak also called on the participants in the celebration of the OAU's silver jubilee to make a bold and comprehensive review of the organization's achievements and to try to find the future developments necessary for Africa's surge toward the 21st century. [passage omitted]

Libya

French Envoy Summoned Over Minister's Remarks

LD251433 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The French ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah was summoned by the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this afternoon and was informed of the Great Jamahiriyah's position regarding the statements made by the French defense minister during his visit to some African countries.

It was stressed to the French ambassador that the Great Jamahiriyah views the French defense minister's statement as incitement of and preparation for war in Chad.

While the Great Jamahiriyah and other African countries are endeavoring to strengthen the trend of peace in the region, France is inciting war and making efforts to exacerbate the situation militarily and politically to undermine the efforts of the OAU and the good-offices committee.

The ambassador was told France should provide any evidence of the French minister's claims of Libyan infiltration from Sudan to eastern Chad. It was conveyed to the ambassador that the claim, which is without evidence, deprives the French defense minister's statement of credibility and renders the claims he makes a pack of lies based on fabrication, rumor-mongering, and distortion of facts.

Mauritania

Over 500 Black Soldiers Reportedly Expelled

AB261424 Paris AFP in French 1240 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Dakar, 26 Jan (AFP)—More than 500 black African Mauritanian noncommissioned officers have been expelled from the Army, the gendarmerie, and the National Guard after incidents arising from the execution of three black Mauritanian officers last December for attempting to stage a coup d'etat, a communique issued by a Mauritanian opposition group announced.

According to the communique of the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM—clandestine opposition group), delivered today to AFP in Dakar, all the dismissed NCO's "have been placed under house arrest in their places of origin" situated in the southern part of the country. The FLAM also produced a photocopy of the ministerial decree from the Mauritanian Ministry of the Interior, Posts, and Telecommunications, announcing the irrevocable dismissal [revocation sans droit] of 15 black policemen. These policemen "have been accused by the authorities of not respecting neutrality during recent incidents."

Furthermore, the communique points out that some 30 civilian prisoners (arrested after the 1986 black African agitation) and soldiers (arrested after the abortive coup d'etat of October 1987 in Nouakchott) have been transferred to the Oualata prison, near the border with Mali.

President Taya Comments on Elections

LD241707 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] The democratic process will continue in Mauritania. This was stated exclusively by the Mauritanian head of state on Paris International Radio. Col Ould Taya talks about the possibility of general elections and even presidential elections. The first step of this democratic process, the local elections which recently took place, has gone through without trouble. The Mauritanian head of state was interviewed by Carmen Bader:

[Begin recording] [Taya] Generally speaking, there haven't been any irregularities, especially because there were polling booths and people were free to vote as they wished. The presence of lists in the polling stations guaranteed against any fraud, thus, we didn't receive any complaints along these lines.

[Bader] But I have seen soldiers near the polling stations. Was this necessary, in your opinion?

[Taya] Yes, it was necessary because there was a risk in some places, there was a risk of trouble. That is why you have seen forces of order. We had to take precautions so the elections could take place normally and without problems.

[Bader] Have you thought in a precise way about other elections as part of the democratic process?

[Taya] It is a continuing process. We are not in a hurry. It aims at instituting democracy among our people here at home, in Mauritania.

[Bader] How far could this go, in your opinion?

[Taya] As far as the situation and the circumstances will allow.

[Bader] Presidential elections, for example?

[Taya] Indeed, presidential and general elections [words indistinct].

[Bader] I suppose that in this kind of process there are some problems. There is a military regime in Haiti; you are a military man yourself. I suppose there is no unanimity per se among the military?

[Taya] We are democratic military men.

[Bader] Are all Mauritanian military men democrats?

[Taya] All Mauritanian military men are democrats. [end recording]

Information Cooperation Discussed With Egypt

AB241036 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Mr Mohamed Haibetna Ould Sidi Haiba, minister of information, yesterday held talks with the secretary general of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa. At the end of these talks, the Egyptian official told AMP [MAURITANIAN PRESS AGENCY] that they discussed cooperation between his institution and Mauritania. This cooperation, he said, will include radio and television training courses, as well as an exchange of programs in the field of information. Cooperation between the AMP and Egypt's MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY is also included in the package.

Sudan

SPLA Claims Responsibility for MIG-23 Crash
EA251602 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpts] SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" campaign shot down one of the two enemy MIG-23 fighter planes over Iliu village about 5 km from Torit at 1445 Sudan local time last Saturday, 23 January 1988. The fighter planes were lured into the air ambush by giving false information to the enemy at Keyala through double agents about the location of the "Bright Star" campaign commander. The second fighter plane was hit and was seen wobbling towards Juba with a trail of smoke. The MIG-23 fighter plane that was shot and immediately crashed was shot by SPLA air defense crews. [passage omitted]

Commenting on (? yet) this other big SPLA victory, the official spokesman of the SPLA said that Khartoum, as usual, will try to play down the MIG-23 SPLA victory by explaining it away as an accident. [passage omitted]

Whatever Khartoum says, the MIG-23 was definitely hit by SPLA air defense gunners, and it will never fly again.

Armed Forces Say Kapoeta Township Evacuated
JN251514 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jan (SUNA)—In a statement issued here today, Monday, the People's Armed Forces General Command said that the Armed Forces in the Kapoeta area of the Equatoria Region have evacuated citizens and Armed Forces personnel following fierce fighting with the outlaws, who have been besieging the area for the past few days. At times, hand-to-hand fighting also took place.

In a report last week, our correspondent in Nairobi said that approximately 30,000 outlaws were sent to an area northeast of Kapoeta to besiege and capture the township of Kapoeta.

The General Command's statement says that the outlaws sent large forces to the area from various positions to destabilize security in that dear part of the beloved homeland after they had failed to achieve their goals in other parts of the country. The statement adds that the Sudanese forces in the area fought with agent John Garang's forces and their supporters courageously and that they were compelled to leave the area to preserve the lives of the citizens.

The General Command's statement also affirms that there is determination to regain and purge Kapoeta from the filth of the outlaws as soon as possible, that all other areas will be liberated from the outlaws, and that not an inch of our beloved land in any part of the country will ever be relinquished. The statement describes the entry of the outlaws into Kapoeta as an expected act of aggression.

SPLA Kills 90 Government Forces in Waw Attack
EA251648 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpts] SPLA forces of Bee and Zalan Battalions under the direct command of Captain (Edward Achwin Dao) and the overall command of Alternate Commander Chuol Ayuwak launched a surprise attack on the enemy troop positions in (Basilia) township in Waw on 8 January 1988.

Correspondent says that 38 enemy soldiers and 52 militiamen were killed, and 43 others sustained injuries. [passage omitted]

On the same day units of Bee Battalion under the direct command of Capt (Edward Achwin Dao) and the overall command of Alternate Commander Chuol Ayuwak shelled the enemy troops positions at (Gazalona) and El Grinti enemy garrisons on 8 January 1988. A correspondent says that seven enemy soldiers were instantly killed and five others were seriously injured. The enemy also suffered widespread damages in military equipment. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tunis for Visit
LD231331 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Tunis, 23 Jan (TAP)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Tunis from Sanaa yesterday morning after a tour which included Baghdad and Athens. [passage omitted]

Confers With Ben Ali
LD231514 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Unidentified correspondent's dispatch from Carthage]

[Text] [Correspondent] At the Presidential Palace in Carthage this morning, President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The meeting was also attended by Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis.

After the meeting, Yasir 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin recording] This morning I had a good opportunity to meet with the president. I explained to him the current situation in the occupied territories and the blessed uprising carried out by our people, our children, our women, and our men against the Israeli occupation and the iron fist of the Israeli army. I also explained the commitment of our people to continue this uprising, one wave after another, and one force after another until the end of the Israeli occupation, with God's help, and until the Palestinian flag flies over Jerusalem.

I (?thanked) the brother president for this balanced pan-Arab fraternal stand of support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and this blessed uprising, especially as the Arab League Council will meet this afternoon at the level of foreign ministers to discuss this issue in particular.

God willing, we hope this meeting will result in practical recommendations, resolutions, and measures to push forward our national march.

I conveyed to the brother president the thanks of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian strugglers for the sincere fraternal stand adopted by Tunisia, its president, its government, its leadership, and its people in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people. [end recording]

Ben Ali Meets Jordanian, Iraqi Ministers

LD251428 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali conferred at the presidential palace in Carthage at noon today with Tahir al-Masri, the Jordanian foreign minister, who said he had conveyed to his excellency the greetings of his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, and his wishes for further success for the new leadership in Tunisia.

He added that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and with the desire to bolster them, particularly in the economic and cultural spheres given the current understanding in the political sphere.

Mr al-Masri pointed out the talks also dealt with Arab political issues, particularly the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers meeting and the blessed and courageous uprising being carried out by the people of occupied Palestine. The meeting was attended by the Tunisian foreign minister and by the Jordanian ambassador in Tunis.

The president of the Republic also conferred with Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who stated he had conveyed to his excellency a message of fraternity from President Saddam Husayn, in which the president of the Republic of Iraq expresses his hearty and sincere good wishes to him, to the Tunisian people, and to the Tunisian leadership for more glory and progress.

He added that the message spoke of Iraq's appreciation for the pan-Arab stance taken by the Tunisian people and the Tunisian leadership, led by his excellency the president, to consolidate Iraq's just cause in defending its territory and sovereignty against Iranian aggression, a stance of which we are very proud.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that he had conveyed to his excellency the president Iraq's desire to continue the relations of fraternity and cooperation with Tunisia in all fields. He described their relations as mature and hoped for their further development in the future. The meeting was attended by the Tunisian foreign minister and by Iraq's ambassador in Tunis.

Ben Ali Receives Moroccan Foreign Minister

LD252343 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] This afternoon at the presidential palace in Carthage, Tunisian President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali, received Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, in the presence of Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri.

In a statement reported by TAP, after the meeting Filali said that he conveyed His Majesty King Hasan II's brotherly greetings to President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali. Filali added that the meeting focused on bilateral relations and the atmosphere of understanding which dominate relations among greater Arab Maghreb countries.

It is worth noting that Abdellatif participated in the emergency meeting of the Arab League ministerial council which ended yesterday in Tunis.

Kuwait

Government Announces Cabinet 'Reshuffle'

LD261115 Kuwait KUNA in English 1019 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 26 (KUNA)—A Cabinet reshuffle was announced here Tuesday.

An amiri decree issued today accepted the resignation of Communications Minister Khalid al-Jumay'an, State Minister for Municipality Affairs 'Abd al-Rahman al-Ghunaym, and Planning Minister Muhammad Sulayman Sayyed 'Ali, Radio Kuwait announced.

The reshuffle brought three new faces to the Cabinet as four ministers swapped portfolios. The new Cabinet line-up, which is still headed by H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, is as follows:

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad (previously interior minister).

Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim (previously defence minister).

Information Minister Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad al-Sabah (previously social affairs and labour minister).

Social Affairs and Labour Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah (previously information minister).

Education Minister and Acting Minister of Higher Education Anwar 'Abdallah al-Nuri (the higher education is a newly introduced portfolio).

Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi.

Public Health Minister Dr. Abdul Razzak Yusif al-Abdul Razzak [name as received] (new Cabinet member).

Electricity and Water Minister Dr. Hamoud Abdullah al-Rguiba [name as received] (new Cabinet member).

Communications Minister Abdullah Abdul Mohsen al-Sharhan [name as received] (new Cabinet member).

State Minister for Municipality Affairs Muhammad 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Rifa'i.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khalid al-Jasir.

Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dari al-'Uthman.

Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi.

Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi.

Public Works Minister 'Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim al-Huti.

Commerce and Industry Minister Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi.

Minister of State for Services Affairs 'Isa Muhammad al-Mazidi.

Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasir al-Rudan.

The former Kuwaiti Cabinet was set up in summer 1986.

Foreign Minister Returns From Tunis Meeting

LD252044 Kuwait KUNA in English 1628 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 25 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir returned here this evening from Tunis where he took part in deliberations of the emergency Arab foreign ministers' conference which discussed the situation in the occupied Arab lands and the ongoing popular uprising.

Upon arrival, Shaykh Sabah told KUNA that the decisions adopted by the Arab foreign ministers were up to the expectations of the Palestinian people who seek liberation and national independence.

He said the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories further enhanced the credibility of the joint Arab political stance towards the Palestinian cause, adding that the Arab stand rejects compromise on the rights of the Palestinian people.

Indicating that deliberations of the emergency meeting were constructive, the Kuwaiti chief diplomat said the conferees emphasized the importance of supporting the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people which is an upshot of the Israeli oppressive acts.

Shaykh Sabah, who headed the Kuwaiti delegation to the emergency meeting, was received on arrival by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Ussaymi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Magid al-Shahin and Foreign Ministry's department directors.

Oman

Tunisia's Baccouche Meets Qabus, Departs

JN231542 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and his delegation at Al-Sib Palace this afternoon. Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; His Highness Haytham ibn Tariq, assistant at the Foreign Ministry for political affairs; and the Tunisian ambassador to the Sultanate attended.

Later in the afternoon, Hedi Baccouche left Muscat after a 2-day official visit during which he held official talks with Al-Zawawi. On hand to see off the Tunisian prime minister were the deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, a number of Cabinet ministers, and other senior officials.

At a predeparture news conference at the airport, Baccouche said he had conveyed a letter from President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali to His Majesty Sultan Qabus on bilateral cooperation and friendship. Praising the GCC as a continuing success, the Tunisian prime minister said the Council has become a model of regional unity. He added: We will seek to emulate this experiment when the time comes for us to launch Arab Maghreb unity. In the Arab context, Baccouche stressed, relations between Tunisia and Oman are exemplary.

PDRY

LE MONDE on Soviet Aid to South Yemen

PM250940 Paris LE MONDE in French
22 Jan 88 p 4

[Jean Gueyras article: "Soviet Aid Perfect in Military Sphere and Modest in Economic Sphere"]

[Text] The new YSP headquarters—a gift from the Eastern bloc countries—has been constructed in the purest Soviet architectural style. On the facade, which is white like the rest of the building, three female figures form a chain with outstretched arms, symbolizing proletarian solidarity. Behind a huge U-shaped inner courtyard, the main entrance hall, decorated with busts of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, immediately puts the YSP in the family of orthodox communist parties.

However, apparently out of a desire not to frighten their Arab neighbors, the South Yemeni leaders never claim to follow Marxism-Leninism and prefer to describe themselves as followers of scientific socialism.

The great principles of Marxism-Leninism are taught just a stone's throw from the Central Committee headquarters in the huge white building which houses the Institute of Scientific Socialism. This university, unique in the Arab world, was established in 1972 and teaches the Yemenis the rudiments of communist ideology under the guidance of a team of teachers, comprising mainly East Germans and Soviets, recently joined by some South Yemenis.

Whether by coincidence or logical necessity, this political and pedagogical complex is about 100 meters from the Soviet Embassy complex: around 10 buildings with a peaceful, provincial appearance, painted green and white and bristling with a forest of antennas. All around are other quiet residences, housing some of the Soviets who work in Aden in various capacities. How many of them are there in South Yemen? No accurate figure is available. The estimates vary from 4,000 to 10,000 all told: diplomatic staff, military experts, civilian technicians and their families. Aden's Kremlinologists, who are fairly well informed, think the figure of 6,000 is fairly close to the truth.

But ordinary people think there are many more of them because "they can be seen everywhere." In 'Isuwa, about 50 km north of Aden, 700 of them, living with their families in a neighboring village, have been helping to construct the country's biggest power station since 1982. The work, which is taking a long time to complete, is the subject of frequent gibes which fuel an underlying anti-Soviet campaign. At the weekend, khat (a plant which the Yemenis like to chew as a stimulant) parties sometimes loosen tongues. Unfriendly remarks are then frequently made about the Soviets who are described as "new colonialists."

The Soviets apparently have very strict instructions not to mix with the population. They generally only travel in groups, in orange buses specially placed at their disposal. Storekeepers in Steamer Point, a district near the port, who did a roaring trade with British sailors 20 years ago, have given Russian names to their stalls which are filled with old-fashioned electrical gadgets. But they complain about the poor business they do with the Soviet sailors and tourists who, they complain, "do not spend much."

The Soviets' lack of contact with the Yemenis at all levels apparently partly explains why they failed to predict the critical events of January 1986. Of course, they knew that something was being plotted. But they did not think the crisis could take such a violent turn. They are therefore now trying to establish closer political ties with the Aden leaders, without having too many illusions about their influence on the course of events which, according to them, remains uncertain.

All the attempts they have recently made to introduce a degree of glasnost and restructuring into Aden's political life have proved fruitless. In this sphere they constantly tell their interlocutors with resignation, we can only "give advice in the hope that we will be heeded." Thus they have repeatedly but fruitlessly advised the Aden leaders to bring about a reconciliation with former

President 'Ali Nasir, to suspend or change the course of the political trials of his former supporters and, paradoxically, to be less "doctrinaire" in their everyday decisions.

In fact, the only sphere in which cooperation is flawless is military aid, which the USSR apparently supplies in abundance. The big maneuvers which took place recently in the desert near Aden demonstrated, according to military experts, that not only had the Russians made good the losses in Army equipment but that the Army had also been equipped with abundant and varied supplies of modern, sophisticated equipment.

There is apparently no problem between the South Yemeni military and their Soviet advisers, of whom there are many involved in training and who could not conceal their satisfaction at the "prowess" of their pupils who, according to them, are "very talented." Moreover, all the indications are that these maneuvers, which took place in the presence of a large North Yemeni political and military delegation, were intended to be a "message" to North Yemen, whose Army recently took a rather belligerent attitude on the border.

In this connection, the Russian experts who also advise and train the Sanaa military, admit in private that the southerners are far ahead of their counterparts in the north in the art of war and that they have succeeded in overcoming the severe handicap of the civil war in 2 years.

The Role of the Military [subhead]

In addition, Aden's Army has the advantage of being highly politicized and motivated. One out of every three soldiers is a party member. This proportion is higher among the officers. Most of them are young party cadres, educated in Eastern bloc countries after being recruited from the Yemeni Union of Democratic Youth—the only mass organization to have remained free of factional quarrels and the source from which the party and Armed Forces draw their most loyal servants.

To say, as some people do, that the Soviets would look kindly on a military takeover, which would end factional quarrels once and for all, would be rather hasty. Those who put forward this possibility maintain that the Army is the country's only well-disciplined organization, that it contains no rival groups at present, and that it could easily impose an "order" which the divided party is incapable of guaranteeing.

According to the same sources, Moscow would like the political promotion of Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, the Army's "strong man," deputy defense minister [title as published], and chief of staff, for this purpose. He won fame in January 1986 at the head of the armored corps which left Salah al-Din barracks and tipped the battle in favor of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. Since February 1986, Col Haytham has been a Central Committee member and has just been promoted to candidate member of the Politburo and defense minister.

According to these sources, the possibility of Col Haytham seizing power would be all the more acceptable to the Soviets, because he is a member of the "Fatahist" clan which gives unconditional support to the USSR. That is the flaw in the argument of those who think that a Bonapartist coup is possible in Aden: Why seize power when you virtually control it anyway? The use of the Army would be the final solution envisaged if the power struggle became acute once again and likely to endanger the regime's existence.

Priority to Development [subhead]

Things have not yet reached that point and the military, backed by the Soviets, are trying to ensure that such a confrontation does not recur. For the time being, the Soviets constantly repeat—through Eastern bloc diplomats in Aden—that "the military's place is in the barracks and nowhere else," that "their role should be limited to defending the country's borders" and that "one Jaruzelski is quite enough."

Moscow thinks that once the security of the borders has been guaranteed, priority should go to guaranteeing the country's economic independence. Mr Kadyrov, head of the Soviet economic mission in Aden, caused rather a sensation in a press conference in October when he called on the Yemenis to put an end to "political infighting" and to start on the crucial task of rebuilding to guarantee the "country's self-sufficiency."

Mr Kadyrov's warm recommendation, interpreted as an unequivocal warning, is apparently not free from egotistical concerns. South Yemen has cost and is still costing the Soviet taxpayer a great deal (in 1985 the total debt to the USSR was more than $550 million). The damage inflicted on the country's economy following the January 1986 events—estimated at more than $140 million—must have put a severe strain on Moscow's finances because it was forced to show "proletarian internationalism."

But enough is enough and a rather Cartier-style spirit is developing among the Soviets. They constantly tell their interlocutors that it is time for the Yemenis to take control of their own fate. Invoking the sacrosanct principle of "noninterference in fraternal countries' internal affairs," they stress "it is up to the Yemenis themselves to find the key to their economic problems."

Foreign aid, they add, must no longer be crucial. A word to the wise is enough. Meanwhile, until the day South Yemen achieves self-sufficiency, they say they are prepared to continue their economic and financial aid in the name of "proletarian internationalism."

All kinds of delegations are visiting Aden with increasing frequency and a special effort has been made to speed up several economic projects in Aden. But miracles cannot be expected: There will be no Soviet Marshall Plan. The current watchword is very similar to the old saying "God helps those who help themselves," "but as far as is possible," because the Soviets have other obligations in the world and, they stress, have their own economic problems —glasnost oblige.

The Oil Panacea [subhead]

A year ago, the USSR made the "political decision" to make every effort to facilitate oil prospecting. It seems to have kept its promise. Three deposits of "good quality" oil "in commercially viable quantities" have been found in Shabwah near the border with North Yemen, near the Ma'rib oilfields discovered in the north in 1984 by the U.S. Hunt company.

According to initial estimates, the reserves amount to 1 billion barrels, but Russian technicians have so far cautiously refused to confirm this figure, specifying the drilling under way was for test wells and not production wells. The black gold will probably not be marketed until early 1990.

The announcement of this discovery, welcomed in Aden like a panacea, has poisoned relations between the two Yemens. The two fraternal countries have recently been on the threshold of a new armed conflict, the northerners thinking that the border in this region had not been drawn in a definitive way and claiming Hunt's right to prospect in the region.

Negotiations are now under way to try to settle this dispute which is added to a large number of existing disputes. But military measures have been taken on both sides. In early November, the south sent armored reinforcements to the area. Once again they are relying on the Soviets, who have influence in the two capitals, to prevent an armed confrontation.

South Yemen's major development problems seem to have relegated to second place the doctrinal concerns which were partly responsible for the crises and score-settling which peppered this Republic's 20 years' of existence. However, political and ideological disagreements, rivalry, and personal ambition which are still latent might jeopardize the new realism which has existed in Aden for 2 years.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives French Finance Minister

LD241459 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] This afternoon the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, may God protect him, received at his office at Al-Yamamah Palace the French minister of state in charge of finance and economy, Mr Edouard Balladur, and the delegation accompanying him, who handed to the custodian of the two holy mosques a message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; and the French ambassador to the Kingdom, Jacques Berniere.

Iraq's 'Aziz Delivers Message to King Fahd

LD252041 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, received a verbal message from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, when he was received by the king at Al-Yamamah Palace today.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, education minister and acting higher education minister, and Tirad al-Harithi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Iraq.

His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Riyadh earlier this evening and was welcomed on arrival at King Khalid International Airport by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, education minister and acting higher education minister; Ambassador Tawfiq Khalid al-Alamdar; head of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department; and Tirad al-Harithi, Saudi ambassador to Iraq.

United Arab Emirates

Reportage on Visit by Tunisian Prime Minister

Arrives in Abu Dhabi 23 Jan

JN231658 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jan (WAKH)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Muscat on a 2-day visit to the UAE within the framework of a tour of a number of Arab states. He was received at the airport by UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad. Baccouche will hold talks with senior UAE officials on bilateral relations, ways to promote them, and the current situation in the Arabian Gulf and Arab arena.

Conveys Presidential Letter

LD231125 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche had a meeting in Abu Dhabi this evening with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces, and handed him a letter for Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali. Bilateral relations and ways to improve them were discussed at the meeting. The two sides noted that Tunisia is determined to give cooperation with Arab countries the importance it deserves.

Holds News Conference

JN240835 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jan (WAKH)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche has stated that his tour of countries in the region is aimed at briefing officials there on the state of affairs in Tunisia in the wake of the political changes which took place on 7 November 1987. He said that the purpose of his tour is also to discuss the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestinian people's ongoing uprising in the occupied territories, and bilateral relations.

At a news conference in Abu Dhabi tonight, Prime Minister Baccouche noted that his tour may also include Syria, Iraq, and Jordan. The Tunisian prime minister praised the GCC experience and described it as a vanguard move toward unity that is based on realities. He said that he views the GCC experience as a model for the Arab Maghreb countries which need unity. He added that the Maghreb countries in their search for the establishment of the Arab Maghreb might adopt the GCC model.

The Tunisian prime minister described his talks with UAE officials as fruitful. He said his current tour of Gulf countries has achieved its objectives and will have a positive impact in terms of enhancing relations between Tunisia and the countries he visited.

Baccouche said he believes Tunisia's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt will not affect Tunisia's relations with Libya and Algeria. He asswrted that Tunisia had decided to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt because Egypt under President Husni Mubarak is working in the interest of Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause. In this respect, he referred to Egypt's recent decision to reopen the PLO offices in Cairo. Baccouche said that Tunisia had informed Libya and Algeria of its intention to resume relations with Egypt some time ago.

The Tunisian prime minister said that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will visit Tunisia soon and that the Tunisian-Libyan disagreement over Tunisian workers is on its way to being resolved.

Answering a question on the nature of the Arab steps through which one can work to halt the Iraq-Iran war in light of the Amman summit resolutions, Baccouche affirmed that the Amman summit is a good step on the road to Arab solidarity and to defending Arab land. In this respect, he called on all Arab countries to give momentum to this Arab consensus in implementation of the Amman summit resolutions.

The Tunisian prime minister said that he believes the Arab League has not performed its required role on the level of attaining Arab unity and that it has not achieved all the aspirations. He said the establishment of the GCC and the efforts under way to attain the unity of the Arab Maghreb countries are in the interest of the Arab countries and will correct the Arab League's course. He called on Arab countries to search for realistic unity methods and to enhance the Arab League's role so that it may become more effective.

On what Tunisia's stand will be on the transfer of Arab League headquarters to Cairo if Egypt regains its position in the Arab League, Baccouche said Tunisia supports Arab consensus and that his country does not confuse its relations with Egypt with the return of Arab League headquarters to Cairo.

On whether Tunisia will resume its relations with Iran, Baccouche ruled out such a step at the present time. He said: This issue is not under consideration.

On domestic affairs, the Tunisian prime minister said Tunisia does not intend to include independent elements in the government. However, he said his country seeks to regulate political activities by issuing a law defining the bases through which parties can participate in political life.

He denied that there is any intention to grant a general amnesty to all members of the Islamic trend and said there are some detainees against whom sentences were passed for carrying out acts of violence. He stressed that the problems arising from the issue of the other detainees will be settled and that Tunisia is bent on overcoming all problems arising from differences of opinion.

Hedi Baccouche said the Tunisian economic development program is scoring good results and that the Tunisian Government is working to encourage Arab investments in Tunisia by creating a suitable atmosphere for this.

Leaves for Damascus

JN240844 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0748 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Jan (WAKH)—Tunisian Prime Minisrter Hedi Baccouche left Abu Dhabi for Damascus this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to the UAE as part of a tour of Arab Gulf countries. Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad and other ranking officials saw him off.

Yemen Arab Republic

Netherlands Foreign Minister Leaves Sanaa

JN231327 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Hans van den Broek, foreign minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and his delegation left Sanaa this morning after a 3-day visit to our country. He told SABA' he had held fruitful talks with Foreign Ministry officials on bilateral cooperation and ways to further develop it. His talks, added the Netherlands foreign minister, also touched on the Iraq-Iran war, the Mideast, and a number of issues of shared interest.

He noted he had met with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani.

On hand to see off the Netherlands minister were Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, a number of officials of the Foreign Ministry, and the Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

'Aziz Returns After Visits to Tunis, Riyadh

JN260817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0644 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today following visits to Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. During his visit to Tunis, 'Aziz delivered a message to Tunisian President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali from President Saddam Husayn and attended the Arab League Council emergency session which concluded its work in Tunis the day before yesterday.

During his visit to Riyadh, 'Aziz conveyed a message to His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from President Saddam Husayn. The message deals with bilateral relations and the current situation in the region.

Kuwaiti Minister Arrives With Amir's Message

JN231018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA)—Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi said that he is bringing a message to President Saddam Husayn from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

He added that the message deals with relations between the two sisterly countries, as well as developments in the Arab region, particularly during these difficult circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing.

The Kuwaiti minister was received by Dr 'Adnan Dawud Salman, minister of local government; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Conveys Message, Departs

JN231940 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, left Baghdad this evening after a short visit to Iraq. The Kuwaiti minister conveyed a written message to leader President Saddam Husayn from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, on relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as developments in the Arab situation. He was seen off at the airport by 'Adnan Dawud Salman, minister of local government; the Foreign Ministry under secretary; and the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Baghdad

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 2,999

JN251731 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,999 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continue to be an impregnable stronghold and an honest defender of Iraq's sovereignty, the Iraqi people's dignity, and the achievements of the generous Iraqi revolution. The results of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. In continuation of our firm course to deprive the Iranian regime of its oil supplies, our Air Force continued to attack enemy maritime targets. At 1228 [0928 GMT] today, the lofty hawks launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After dealing an accurate and effective blow, the hawks returned with their planes safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Groups of enemy personnel yesterday tried to approach the positions of our forward units in the I Army Corps northern sector. The heroic I Army Corps soldiers confronted them, pouring their fire on them and killing 253 troops. The remainder fled. In the same sector, 8 large vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed; 1 vehicle was damaged; 8 infantry positions, 1 shovel [preceding word in English], and 1 tractor were destroyed; and 13 ammunition dumps were blown up.

3. Two scoundrels were killed and one single-barreled machinegun was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Three infantry positions and one single-barreled machinegun were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one scoundrel was killed, one infantry position and two observation posts were destroyed, and one shovel was set ablaze and destroyed.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector, six aggressors were killed and one machinegun was destroyed and those manning it were killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 January 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN260632 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0612 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—Iraqi aircraft have raided a large maritime target off the Iranian coast. It is the second target to be attacked in the past 24 hours. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said that the raid was carried out at 0110 today [2210 GMT 25 January]. The spokesman added that after carrying out their mission all planes returned safely to base. Iraqi aircraft attacked another large maritime target off the Iranian coast yesterday.

Jamming of Al-Quds Palestinian Radio Considered

TA260938 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
26 Jan 88 p 5

[ITIM report]

[Text] Israel may have to jam the broadcasts of the new Palestinian radio station, which is apparently broadcasting from Syria. This was said by Edmond Sehayek, the head of the Voice of Israel in Arabic. Many residents in the territories are listening to the new Palestinian station.

The radio has recently mentioned the names of Arabs employed by the Israeli Civilian Administration in the territories, as well as their addresses and the names of their children, calling on them to resign. According to Israeli military sources, the broadcasts are inciting to harm these people.

The new station apparently began to broadcast on 1 January. Its broadcasts include Palestinian songs, newscasts, interviews, announcements by terrorist organizations, and calls to the IDF to lay down its arms. A child's voice calls on Palestinian children to throw rocks using slingshots. The station apparently receives updates from supporters in the territories. One listener said that "the contents of manifestos are broadcast within hours of their circulation."

Leaders Comment on Mubarak Peace Initiative

Peres Interviewed on Plan

TA251628 Tel Aviv Educational Television
in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Rafi Reshef—live in the studio]

[Text] [Reshef] Good evening, Mr Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Reshef] Some people have already rejected Mubarak's initiative, but I would like to know what you know about it. From what has been published one can gather it proposes a 6-month moratorium on new settlements in the territories. An agreement to this will prevent any disturbances during this period. Emphasis is put on an opening for the international conference as well as political rights for the Palestinians. Do you know any more details?

[Peres] No, the plan covers only one page. However, there are two things which should be pointed out here. First, an appeal is made to the inhabitants of the territories not to continue the disturbances; and second, it calls for a renewal of the political effort, and this in itself is worthy of support.

[Reshef] Are you convinced that the inhabitants of the territories will acquiesce to Mubarak's appeal?

[Peres] We are not talking here about the inhabitants of the territories but of Mubarak. I think that it is good to have negotiations instead of sticks. I assume that President Mubarak knows that no new settlements are being established in the territories these days, and the call to put an end to the violence is timely and I approve of it. As for the international conference, it is time to put an end to the deceptions surrounding this issue. In 1973 there was an international conference with the participation of the United States, which at that time was less friendly toward Israel, and the Soviet Union, which was then more hostile toward Israel. Israel went to Geneva, there was an international opening. Now tell me, were we harmed in any way, did we receive any scratches? What stories is Mr Shamir spreading, on what is he basing his opinion? Mr Shamir even regarded Camp David as being half a disaster, so what...

[Reshef, interrupting] You heard what Mr Shamir said. He said that as long as you are supporting this initiative it is foiling the implementation of the Camp David accords.

[Peres] There was a time when he was prime minister without me in the government. Why did he not conduct direct negotiations then? Who stood in his way? Why did they enter Lebanon at that time and then fail to withdraw from it? Why did they have such a crazy rate of inflation then? Am I at fault for everything? In 1973 there was an international conference. Did anything terrible happen?

[Reshef] If I understand you correctly, there is no fresh message coming out of Mubarak's new initiative.

[Peres] The most significant thing in Mubarak's initiative is his intention. The leader of the largest Arab country is saying: Let us put an end to the violence and search for new ways. Now, it depends on what you compare Mubarak's initiative with. If, for example, you compare his initiative to Al-Sadat's speech in the Knesset, it is definitely a step forward on his part. One must consider the Egyptian starting point, not the Israeli one.

[Reshef] Regarding his timing, it is likely that he wants to recruit the United States—despite the election year—to help us extricate ourselves from the political stalemate. Do you believe it is realistic to expect a change, a U.S. initiative, perhaps pressure on Israel, during this year?

[Peres] Look, I am a modest person. Moreover, who knows what is or isn't realistic. Only a few months ago many of Israel's prominent leaders said: What is the rush? Maintain the status quo. Tell me, did anybody see what was going to happen? If we continue to postpone things, will the situation improve?

Let me mention another thing that people tend to forget: The international opening was initiated by the United States, not by us, and it is necessary if we want Jordan to participate in the negotiations. Why hasn't Jordan participated in negotiations for 20 years? Is it because I brought up the international conference? In the past—before we started looking for alternatives—Jordan said that it would not enter negotiations unless Israel stated beforehand what it is willing to give up. Jordan has dropped this condition, it is no longer demanding a priori promises. Instead it is saying: Let us assemble a conference approximately similar to the Geneva conference.

[Reshef] Mr Peres, you made your political initiative before the start of the recent disturbances in the territories. It is you, however, as foreign minister, who are receiving the international feedback on the club policy. [IDF policy to respond to unrest in territories with beatings] To what extent does this policy harm the chances of your initiative?

[Peres] Look, the club or the sticks policy was not chosen by us, it was a situation forced on us. It is possible that had my peace initiative not been blocked, we would not have arrived at this situation.

[Reshef] There is the issue, however, of where to place the emphasis. Let me quote Hagay Eshed from DAVAR, who wrote today that what is significant is not only the policy, but also how it is being implemented. Eshed writes that Rabin spoke about force, that he came up with hair-raising statements on power and beatings. In this case the method, the how, is not serving the policy.

[Peres] I have to say in Rabin's favor that he said the only solution to the situation is a political solution. He does not regard the sticks, or clubs, as offering any answer. The country must proceed in two ways. On the one hand it must protect all its citizens, but on the other it must offer a chance for peace. It is almost insane to propose that the country must proceed in one way only, that of security, and to say that there is no rush about peace. What does it mean that there is no rush?

[Reshef] You have been quoted as saying in two Cabinet sessions that nothing will help end the disturbances unless we extricate ourselves from the political stalemate.

[Peres] True, true.

[Reshef] Now, I will neither refer to the results of the elections to the Tel Aviv University students union, nor to the school poll [mock elections in a Tel Aviv high school which gave the right a huge majority] because they are certainly not reliable indicators. Reports from the field, however, whether by Ron Ben-Yishay or Ze'ev Schiff, indicate there is a radicalization towards the right-wing among the soldiers who are quelling the disturbances. From where do you think you can receive a mandate?

[Peres] I do not accept these reports. There is a radicalization to the right in the sense that Likud supporters have defected for Tehiya, and Tehiya supporters defected for KAKH, and who knows, perhaps the KAKH sympathizers have defected for RAKAH or who knows where. There is a radicalization in the rightist camp, but it does not effect me in the least. I do not know of the defection of any person, not even one, from the camp which believes that in addition to security we should make a political initiative. I know many Likud members who have doubts. Generally speaking, I belong to a camp characterized by skepticism, judgment, and cautious pessimism. It is no wonder that every time there is an election campaign a lot of doubts are heard from our camp. There is another camp which is very sure of itself because it is blind, because it is color blind.

[Reshef] As a skeptic, can you tell me how it is possible for you to be optimistic regarding your popularity. Do you have any figures indicating whether these 7 weeks in the territories have benefited the Labor Party?

[Peres] I have an indication and I have remained optimistic. Based on what I have heard, I am not worried. I do not want to rely on polls. I have already said that a public opinion poll is like a perfume—it is pleasant to smell, but dangerous to swallow. I am not relying on them. There are 10 months to go, and many things will change by then. There is also a difference between a first and second reaction. Tell me this, when you search your heart do you find only one reaction? Each of us has several reactions to the situation. Obviously the first reaction is anger. We ask why they are throwing stones, etcetera. The second reaction, however, is that the problem is not stones but numbers. What has changed in the Gaza Strip over the last 20 years is not the stonethrowing. The difference is that 20 years ago there were 300,000 Arabs in the Gaza Strip and today there are 650,000 Arabs there. The size of the Gaza Strip, on the other hand, has not doubled. The shantytowns of the refugees are in worse condition then they were 20 years ago.

[Reshef] Mr Peres, you are a foreign minister who wants to concentrate on the political process. Now, however, you have to deal with the policy in the territories and with things like the very painful Zucker-Sarid report dealing with accusations of an excessive use of force in Gaza. This report claims to have affidavits regarding senseless, excessive force, and they point to specific cases. How can you live with this?

[Peres] First, I am confronting the situation. You cannot say that I am escaping from the campaign. I am voicing my opinion with the utmost use of judgment. If my voice is at times a lone voice, this makes no difference. I am convinced that there is no solution...[changes thought] and I am convinced that there are hundreds of thousands who think as I do, and the same holds true for the leadership. Even Yitzhaq Rabin and my other colleagues in the government—from the camp which represents our opinion—are convinced that just as we must not enter negotiations because of the disturbances, we should also not stop the negotiations because of the disturbances. Perhaps the negotiations will contribute toward ending the disturbances.

[Reshef] You have been quoted as saying in a closed forum that as far as you are concerned there will be no national unity government after the elections. Is this true?

[Peres] You know, everyone quotes what he has heard. I am not very concerned about the composition of the government, I am concerned about the policy of the government. If it is a policy of nyet, nyet, and nyet about everything, then there will be nothing for me to do.

[Reshef] You have already learned from personal experience that a national unity government means nyet and nyet, and that it is very difficult to come up with a significant initiative which would be acceptable to the two sides.

[Peres] No, I do not think this is true. During the first half-term of the government there were no nyets. Despite the nyet we withdrew from Lebanon; despite the nyet we changed the settlement policy in the territories; despite the nyet we reached an agreement on Tabah; despite the nyet we extricated ourselves from the inflation quagmire; despite the nyet we completely changed Israel's international status. It is painful for me to see how we are losing all these achievements and for what reasons.

[Reshef] Are you aware of the fact that you will not be able to advance your political initiative under the present government setup?

[Peres] Maybe yes and maybe no. Look, I am not aware of anything at this point. In the Tabah issue it also took us a lot of time until we overcame the nyet, a lot of time. I am not despairing, I am not one of those people who give up.

[Reshef] So, if I understood you correctly, you are not discounting the possibility of entering a national unity government with the Likud after the elections if there are chances to advance the political initiative.

[Peres] No, these are your words.

[Reshef] I will be happy to hear what you have to say.

[Peres] What I say is that the policy is more important than the composition. I am willing to proceed with the composition of a national unity government if there is a policy of a peace initiative. Without it there is no point in sitting in the government together just to bicker every Sunday.

[Reshef] Do you have a scenario for the Likud joining a peace initiative acceptable to you?

[Peres] Gradually there are people in the Likud who are beginning to think that perhaps there is no alternative...

[Reshef, interrupting] Will you agree with me that these people are on the fringes?

[Peres] Everything starts from the fringes.

[Reshef] You already mentioned the Lebanon war. At that time we had David Levi. In this case do you see any prominent figure who may join this initiative?

[Peres] Look, I am not an interpreter of the Likud and I do not want to hand out grades or evaluate people. In the last election, however, the Alignment received 44 seats and the Likud 41 seats. I am not ruling out the possibility that this time we will receive 47-48 seats. The struggle is over 3-4 seats. I know a lot of people in Israel who are convinced that this is the time to join forces, that this is the decisive election campaign. We must think about another thing: If the Alignment loses there will be a coalition of the Likud and the religious parties—and I am making a distinction between religious Jews and religious parties. In the Likud there is no opposition to religious coercion, they are willing to give them everything, and on the other hand the religious people are willing to give the Likud almost everything. What kind of a coalition will this be? If we receive the support we need for forming a government the most important thing for me will be the policy. Where are we proceeding? Are we proceeding toward a binational state, a thing which will block all the chances for peace, or toward a Jewish, democratic state with a chance for peace?

Sharon Rejects Initiative

TA221216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] President Mubarak has called on the inhabitants of the territories to put an end to acts of violence in exchange for Israel's agreement to put a freeze on new settlements for half a year. Israel was called on by President Mubarak to accept steps leading to an international conference and to respect the political rights of the inhabitants of the territories. This is President Mubarak's proposal as published in THE WASHINGTON POST this morning. Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon rejects the intervention of President Mubarak, or any other Arab leader, in the process of bringing calm to the territories. Minister Sharon told our correspondent Dan Eshel the following:

[Begin recording] Only one government is responsible for security within the areas of Eretz Yisra'el, and that is the Israeli Government. This is why all the steps aimed at bringing complete calm to Eretz Yisra'el are the responsibility of the government, and I assume that the Israeli Government will find the appropriate ways to impose law and order.

Another reason I would not like to see the involvement of Mubarak or any other Arab leader is this: I do not think the Israeli Government cares to adopt the brutal methods of imposing law and order which are the norm in the Arab countries. Would we like to adopt the brutal methods which are normal in Egypt? Or perhaps we should adopt the methods used by Husayn in 1970 when he massacred 7,000 Palestinians? Or maybe we should embrace the methods of Syria—a country which might make a similar proposal. Without any compunction Syria annihilated the population of one of the most ancient cities in the world, Homs, and in the cruelest possible way killed more than 25,000 people. Therefore, I would advise all those people giving advice from the outside to deal with their own internal affairs and to allow the Israeli Government, which is the sovereign government of an independent country, to take the necessary steps. [end recording]

Shamir: Proves Intervention

TA260957 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Jan 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, Ilan Bakhar, and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that in a message from Husayn conveyed to him by the American Jewish Congress delegation, the king clarified unambiguously what he meant by an international conference: giving the superpowers the mandate to intervene when differences of opinion arise in the course of the negotiations. The foreign minister's office has confirmed that such a message was indeed conveyed, but Peres believes that the members of the Jewish delegation misunderstood Husayn.

Background to Plan Detailed

TA251311 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
25 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative is part of a greater understanding reached between many parties for the promotion of the political process and for a solution to the problem of the territories. Egypt, the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the 'Arafat faction in the PlO, Iraq, Jordan, and the USSR are parties to the general principles of the understanding. Opposed to it are the Likud and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The U.S. position is not clear. The understanding is based on two principles: The political process will, on the one hand, focus on consolidating a transitional period for the territories until negotiations on permanent arrangements are held, while, on the other hand, the international conference idea will be set aside for the time being, with the focus being on a preparatory process in which junior levels will take part. The two sides' disagreements on the understanding remain, despite the agreement in principle. Egypt, the PLO, and the USSR advocate handing the territories over to international supervision or management during the transitional period, while Israel and Jordan advocate handing the territories over to Jordanian-Palestinian administration. There are also disagreements between Israel and Jordan over the scope of the Israeli presence in the territories during the transitional period.

The deterioration in the territories accelerated the contacts for the consolidation of these understandings. The breakthrough came when Jordan informed the Israeli Foreign Ministry that it was dropping an earlier demand to discuss the permanent borders at once, and expressed readiness to focus on defining the nature of the transitional period. Iraqi and PLO agreement was secured through Egyptian diplomacy during President Mubarak's visit to Baghdad last month. Mubarak later went to Al-'Aqabah and presented the plan to King Husayn. The Jordanian king made his support for the initiative conditional on canceling the moves for the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile to be located in Cairo.

Nimrod Novik, Minister Peres' adviser, discussed this plan in his talks with the Soviets in Helsinki a few weeks ago, and after learning that the Soviets support its general lines, Foreign Ministry Political Director General Yosi Beilin left for the United States to try to persuade the Americans.

As for the procedures of the talks, it was agreed that a preparatory process would take place at the junior level. The goal would be to leave room for a Palestinian representation made up of PLO supporters who are not official members of the organization. Such a formula was already tested at the opening of the Camp David process at the Mena House talks in Cairo, which officially came under the heading of preparatory talks for a Geneva conference.

This development sheds new light on Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's policy, which is based on ruling out PLO supporters as legitimate participants in the Palestinian representation during the political process and on trying to dissuade Jordan from joining this move.

Egypt Fears Spread of Gaza 'Radicalization'

TA260614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will arrive in the United States today for talks with President Reagan and U.S. Administration leaders. At the top of the president's agenda will be an attempt to promote the international conference issue. We have here remarks made by the Egyptian ambassador in Washington in a special interview with our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer:

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] The tone and content of the remarks of the Egyptian ambassador in the United States aimed at the Israeli people were moderate. Ambassador Al-Ridi Ghunaym said that the events in the territories have left all of us sad and depressed. He then divulged something which the Egyptians have not said hitherto: The disturbances in the Gaza Strip are frightening the Egyptians and arousing concern that the radicalization in the Gaza Strip refugee camps will find its way into Egypt:

[Al-Ridi Ghunaym, speaking in English, picked up in midsentence]...and the more these actions and this policy is being implemented, the worst it would become for all of us, and believe me, the spread of radicalization, which results from these policies, are not good for either of us, not the Egyptians nor for you Israelis.

[Schiffer] The answer proposed by the Egyptians is President Mubarak's peace initiative, which calls for restraint in the territories, a 6-month settlement freeze, and an international conference.

[Al-Ridi Ghunaym, speaking in English] Now there is a universal unanimity on one approach, that is the international conference. An international conference in our opinion should not dictate a settlement, nor should it veto a settlement.

[Schiffer] Al-Ridi Ghunaym says that the international conference will serve as a framework for direct and bilateral negotiations, an idea which Israel has always favored. And what about the Camp David Accords? The Egyptian ambassador says that these agreements are not even a starting point for advancing the peace process. We have tried them over the years, but they did not work out. The main lesson from the disturbances in the territories is that you have to include the Palestinians in the negotiations. Camp David brought about an agreement between Israel and Egypt, no more than that.

[Al-Ridi Ghunaym, speaking in English] We have made it absolutely clear that to maintain our commitments, we maintain the peace treaty with Israel, no question about that. But we also tell you that the continuation of these events are putting a strain on us and putting a pressure on us. If you put the television on an American Jew and you see some of the Soviet Jews are being beaten up or shot at, the American Jewish community of course would feel very much a sense of solidarity with them. The Egyptian people everyday see these scenes, their brothers are being shot at, their brothers are being beaten up and their bones are broken. Don't you think this would put a pressure on the Egyptian Government? It does put a pressure on the Egyptian Government, and that is normal. [end recording]

Shamir Rejects Egyptian, Soviet Peace Proposals

TA251831 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen in the prime minister's office on 25 January—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text][Shamir] I say that an international conference is the exact opposite of direct negotiations, and I am in favor of direct negotiations.

[Kohen] But in his remarks, Mubarak never denied that the conference would indeed lead to direct negotiations.

[Shamir] It is true that he did not deny it, but I still stand by my views. We know that the international conference—as has become more and more evident precisely during the last few days and weeks—will lead to diktats to which Israel will be forced to bow.

[Kohen] What is your reaction to his proposal that violence be terminated in exchange for a 6-month halt in the settlement drive?

[Shamir] As I told you before, I must reply to him that violence will end thanks to our operations and the IDF actions. Violence and terrorism cannot be weighed against Israel's acts.

[Kohen] The Egyptian president says that since 1982, the year during which the autonomy talks were broken off, certain developments evolved in the area that preclude the resumption of those talks.

[Shamir] He never specified what these developments were, although he did mention them in an earlier message he sent to me in which he cited the Jerusalem Law and the Golan Heights Law as examples. As I said before, even after these laws were legislated, President Mubarak sent us a message—that was on 20 April 1982—in which he wrote that the Camp David agreements and the appended framework agreement on the solution to the Palestinian problem will serve as the sole binding document for the solution of the Palestinian problem. This came after all the developments he mentioned. For some odd reason, in even his latest message he said that these autonomy negotiations were terminated in March 1982 and that since then there was no way to resume them. It is interesting to note that 1 month later he wrote us a message in which he undertook to pursue the negotiations only within the framework of the Camp David accords. I am not saying this merely to engage in polemics or argumentation. I think that to date that accord seems to us the best, most realistic, and most practical way of attaining some modicum of a peaceful arrangement.

[Kohen] Sir, the cabinet secretary left for the United States today, where he is scheduled to meet with U.S. representatives, including the U.S. secretary of state. Is he bearing a message regarding the solution of the problem or some political process in the region?

[Shamir] The cabinet secretary was invited by the office of the secretary of state, and he will spend a day, or at most two, in the United States. He is well versed in our positions, he will hear the U.S. positions, and will then return and report.

[Kohen] Sir, the Security Council today launched a debate against the backdrop of the Soviet Union's demand that an international conference be convened. What will your position be if the Arab countries second the motion and force such a demand upon Israel in the Security Council?

[Shamir] I suspect that this resolution, or rather the Soviet proposal, will not be passed by the Security Council. This will be yet another resolution, or motion, submitted but rejected.

U.S. Citizens Complain of IDF Beatings

TA251841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpt] At least three U.S. citizens have filed complaints with the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem that they were beaten by Israeli soldiers in the territories. In two of the cases the U.S. citizens said they were sitting in their homes when the soldiers burst in and began striking everyone in sight. In response the Israeli Army spokesman encouraged those beaten to file complaints with the Civil Administration or local military commanders. [passage omitted]

Beilin Finds 'Hard Feeling' During U.S. Visit

TA222101 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, says that the United States has decided to take the initiative and increase its activity in the region in the wake of the recent week's incidents in the territories. Dr Beilin, who returned from a visit to the United States last night, says that not since the days of the Lebanese war has he encountered such a hard atmosphere toward Israel in the United States. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren talked with him.

[Begin recording] [Goren] Dr Beilin, how would you define the feeling with which you are returning from your U.S. visit?

[Beilin] I am returning with a hard feeling. It was the hardest visit I have paid to the United States since the Lebanese war. The media is full of us, full of events in the territories. Reports are very intensive, very urgent. U.S. television viewers see more than we do here, and there is no doubt that this creates a public opinion that is very unsympathetic to Israel these days.

[Goren] What impact do the images seen in U.S. media have on policymakers there with regard to solving the situation? Did you find a new approach there?

[Beilin] There is no question that the media is influential. The decisionmakers have returned the Middle East question to the political agenda after having removed it 2 or 3 months ago. I have no doubt today that the theory that we would all take leave of the political process in the region in 1988, as it were, is off the agenda. Both the White House and the U.S. State Department are currently seriously considering what, if anything, can be done in the Middle East at the moment.

[Goren] Did you find anything new on this subject then? Are we to expect the United States to resume active involvement at this stage to reach a solution to the conflict in one way or another?

[Beilin] A decision has not yet been made. President Mubarak's visit to the United States at the end of this month may accelerate a decision on this issue. The thing I came across is that finding a solution to the issue of the territories themselves is at the moment the most important subject from the U.S. point of view. Therefore, involvement, if we witness it, may perhaps primarily concern the quality of life in the territories, the economic issue, a sort of an interim solution, some sort of an expanded autonomy, some sort of an agreement which will make it possible for the Palestinians in the territories to express themselves in the short term as well. [end recording]

U.S. Mideast Policy Lacks 'Wisdom', 'Vision'

TA221532 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jan 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Dilemma of U.S. Foreign Policy"]

[Text] During all the critical days experienced by the occupied territories, the U.S. position toward developments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip fluctuated between silence and semi-silence. Official spokesmen expressed the U.S. position with traditional phrases which allow every interpretation and which satisfy all parties.

When a person questions this indifferent U.S. position, the response is similar to "an excuse that is worse than the crime." The answer of U.S. officials is "we do not want to adopt a position regarding the disagreement between the Labor Party and the Likud."

The U.S. Administration's policy is based on dealing with a continued Israeli occupation and on treating Palestinian national aspirations as internal Israeli affairs in which Washington should not be involved.

More surprising than this is what Secretary of State George Shultz said to the effect that the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict should first agree on a formula to end their differences, after which the United States will help these parties do so.

George Shultz believes that the U.S. role should consist of attending the concluding ceremonies of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Thus, a person can draw a clear conclusion, namely that statements by U.S. officials do not reflect any commitment to the issues of nations that aspire to peace and justice.

The statements of these officials about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip do not answer an important question: Does the United States accept continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories?

The continuation of U.S. silence toward the residents of the territories, and the nature of the U.S. role as being neutral and not willing to interfere in Israeli internal affairs, are all incompatible with the financial and military aid provided by Washington to Tel Aviv.

U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East is one that lacks vision and even something more important than wisdom, namely the ability to adhere to U.S. principles on freedom and human rights.

'Observation' Urges Diplomatic Ties With USSR

JN201752 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 20 Jan 88

["Observation" by Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: The Soviet Union's official announcement yesterday of its agreement to receive an Israeli diplomatic mission is undoubtedly viewed as an additional practical step by the Soviet Union pursuant to its policy to improve its relations with Israel. This policy was crystallized in the Kremlin several years ago and has been clarified during the era of leader Mikhail Gorbachev. This policy was not crystallized out of love for the Israeli people. It was crystallized in light of the following factors and facts:

First, the Kremlin rulers' awareness that their anti-Israeli policy, their flagrant bias against Israel over the Arab-Israeli dispute, and their support for the extremist and rejectionist Arab rulers did not expand their influence in the Arab world as they wanted. On the contrary, this policy has reduced their influence.

Second, the Kremlim rulers are aware that improving relations between the Soviet Union and Israel will serve the Soviet Union's interests and image in the world. This is because such an improvement will enable the Soviet Union to restore part of the appreciation of the Israeli people in particular and the peoples of the free world in general. This appreciation was lost as a result of the shameful and anti-Israeli Soviet political and propaganda positions in international circles and the UN bodies and on the unobjective UN resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Third, the Soviet Union's declared desire to participate in the peace process and the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East conflicts with the Kremlin's continued anti-Israeli policy and its open bias against Israel. This is because any mediator in a peace process or in any dispute should have a sincere desire to settle the dispute and should enjoy the respect and confidence of both disputing sides. It is certain that the continuation of such a negative policy will deprive the Soviet Union of such respect and confidence.

However, although the Soviet Union has taken certain important steps to improve its relations with Israel, it still refuses to resume full diplomatic relations with Israel. In fact, this Soviet refusal is due to its shameful submission to the moods of the extremist and negative rejectionist Arab rulers. Undoubtedly, such a shameful submission does not befit at all the prestige and position of a big power and one of the two superpowers. Moreover, this policy will also prevent any appreciation by all nations in general and the Arab peoples in particular. We would not skip facts if we say that the resumption by the Kremlin of full diplomatic relations with Israel will be a real test not only regarding Israel, but also regarding the cause of peace in the Middle East. The Kremlin should take this step if it is really interested in convincing the world that during Gorbachev's reign, it has decided to abandon its negative policy aimed at keeping the Middle East in a state of no peace and no war. Restoration of ties with Israel would also demonstrate that the Kremlin has decided to honestly contribute to bringing about peace and liquidating the Arab-Israeli dispute instead of exploiting this dispute in an evil way as it did during the past decade in order to serve its goals and international strategy. The Kremlin rulers' awareness of these facts was expressed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during a dinner banquet in honor of Sryian President Hafiz al-Asad in Moscow 1 year ago. In his official speech, Gorbachev affirmed that the continued diplomatic boycott between the Soviet Union and Israel is unnatural.

IDF Views Palestinian 'Terrorists' in Lebanon

TA250831 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The IDF is currently studying the various developments in Lebanon in the wake of Amal's lifting of the siege on the Palestinian refugee camps, including those in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports:

The Northern Command believes that the Palestinian terrorists are no less motivated to carry out attacks against Israel. The relative calm which occasionally prevails on both sides of the Lebanese border does not mean that the various terrorist elements are not preparing or trying to perpetrate attacks against the security zone and northern Israel.

In southern Lebanon, people are now waiting to see whether the Amal organization will indeed totally lift the siege on the refugee camps in the Al-Rashidiyah area, adjacent to the security zone. Lebanese sources say that Amal occasionally made it difficult for terrorist elements to attack Israeli territory, although Palestinians were in fact behind most of the terrorist acts perpetrated against Israel in recent months. It is up to Amal to prevent these Palestinians from bringing back the days of battles and heavy casualties in southern Lebanon.

Over the weekend, South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd said that his soldiers are maintaining a high state of alert, although hostile elements conducted extensive activity against SLA soldiers in the security zone even before the siege was lifted.

Shamir Attacks Peres Acceptance of Autonomy

TA251635 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Report by Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] I am convinced progress could have been made toward autonomy negotiations were it not for one stumbling block: The foreign minister's sudden declaration that Israel accepts the autonomy plan. These were the remarks the prime minister made in a sharp attack on Minister Peres at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. He claimed there must be a national consensus on the territories to avoid creating the impression among the Arabs that chaos reigns in Israel. The foreign minister's acceptance of an international conference has, furthermore, weakened the U.S. position in support of direct negotiations, Shamir added. He proceeded to continue his attack on the idea of the international conference. The international conference will not make progress toward peace, he said. On the contrary, it will involve hazards to the existence of the State of Israel.

Shamir termed the international conference a hollow nonentity. After the meeting, the prime minister added that Israel's policy in the territories is not tough, but the very opposite. [passage omitted]

Rabin Notes Merit of Policy in Quelling Riots

TA251838 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Dani Levi in the defense minister's office on 25 January—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Rabin] Our primary goal is to take action against violent phenomena staged by the inhabitants of the territories by way of curfews or IDF initiative, although not with live ammunition. Rather, this should involve the use of force including beatings as long as the other side is engaged in violence, but not after that.

[Levi] Despite the digressions and the criticism heard both at home and outside?

[Rabin] Indeed it is true that there have been digressions and these exceptions to the rule must be addressed because I believe the way the policy is implemented, in accordance with the instructions, has attained the results we wanted and hoped it would achieve.

[Levi] Mr Minister, do you see some positive elements in President Mubarak's initiative?

[Rabin] If he desires to bring about calm in the territories, if he wants to pursue the political process, my answer is affirmative. As for the specifics of his proposals and the conditions he presented, here there is room for negotiations.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 25 January, in a report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, adds: "Not a single resident of the territories has died from the IDF operations in the last few weeks, which included beatings and curfews, said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, emphasizing: It is in our interest to avoid the death of local residents. We only open fire when there is no alternative." Rabin then says: "It seems to me that we have brought about a certain calm, which may perhaps be more clearly seen in Gaza than in Judaea and Samaria. Nevertheless I would say that this is a thin layer of relative calm, by no means an idyllic situation. This obligates us to maintain large forces there, on the basis of this policy, meanwhile exercising supervision." Menashe then adds: "At the same time, the defense minister added, our goal is to bring about calm. The solution to the problem is a political one and will be reached through sitting around a negotiations table."]

Expects 'Greater IDF Deployment'

TA260547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin anticipates greater IDF deployment in the territories than in the past, and this will necessitate more reserve duty. Minister Rabin reiterates that the beatings and curfew method has brought about a certain calm in the territories, noting that with the use of this method no resident has been killed and the number of those injured has been significantly reduced. The defense minister was speaking to defense correspondents.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 26 January in a report on pages 1 and 10 on Rabin's address to defense correspondents adds that Rabin said that "the policy of beating demonstrators was introduced on January 4 or 5, and announced only last week because reporters had asked him about it. He decided to reveal the facts so as not to create a situation in which one set of directives is transmitted within the Army while another picture is presented to the public. The soldiers must feel that they have the backing of the political echelon and the senior command, he said."]

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that next week the IDF will start special courses in issues related to operations in the territories. Preparations have already been made in all the instruction bases, including the recruitment bases. Reserve soldiers will be sent to the territories within the next few days in order to enable regular Army soldiers to return to their normal training courses.

Shamir on Hang Glider 'Mishap' Causing Riots

TA251823 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening that he regards the hang glider night as the real reason for the outbreak of violence among the Arabs of Israel and the territories. This mishap, said Shamir, has brought about a complete shakeup among the Arabs. Suddenly, in one night, they shed all fear of the IDF. As a result, it only took a few sparks to kindle the riots.

Security Forces Uncover PFLP 'Terrorist' Squad

TA221909 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] There has been an achievement for the security forces, who have uncovered a terrorist squad responsible for the murder of the youth Yig'al Shahaf in the Old City about 4 months ago as well as the murder of two Israeli citizens about a year ago. Our military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports that the members of the squad, seven men and one woman, belong to George Habash's Popular Front.

In addition to Yig'al Shahaf's murder, which was perpetrated by shooting him in the head at short range, and the stabbing of Israeli citizens, this squad also planned the murder of a Jewish resident of the Old City, but that plan was disrupted. The squad members also planned to murder two workers in government offices in the territories.

Our correspondent adds that the squad members are residents of Jerusalem, Hebron, and Ramallah, and that some of them were involved lately in riots and stone throwing incidents in Jerusalem. The woman was recruited into the squad to help in the transfer of arms before and after each terrorist act, being fully aware of the fact that the security forces will not search the body of a woman.

Shamir Cancels Order Prohibiting Sinyurah Exit

TA252017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in his capacity as interior minister, tonight unexpectedly canceled the order prohibiting AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah from leaving Israel. The order was issued yesterday and was explained as being for security reasons.

Hanna Sinyurah is scheduled to leave for London in the morning, after which he will proceed to the United States, where he expects to meet with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that apparently the Americans intervened in the matter so as to enable Sinyurah to leave for the United States.

Palestinians Publish 'Cooperation' List

TA220550 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jan 88 p 1

[Report by Andy Court]

[Text] Palestinian groups have begun broadcasting and publishing the names of Israeli Arabs who work for the government or have otherwise cooperated with authorities, police and Palestinian sources said yesterday.

The new tactic has already aroused considerable concern, not only among those mentioned, but also in some official circles.

Leaflets appearing in East Jerusalem and the territories yesterday list the names of Arab policemen, of people who sold their land to Israelis and of suspected police informants, Palestinian sources said. Signed by Islamic Jihad, the leaflets give different names, depending on where they are distributed.

"It's sort of a death sentence against them," one Palestinian source said. "At least, that's how it's seen by the people involved."

At the top of the list distributed in East Jerusalem yesterday was the name of the Arab merchant who reportedly sold the building in the Old City's Moslem Quarter where Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon now lives. There were 14 names in all, including that of a rent-a-car dealer widely suspected of being a police informant.

Meanwhile, a new PLO-affiliated radio station has been publicizing the names of Arabs who work for the police, the civil administration and municipalities, a police source said.

The broadcasts call upon the people named to quit their jobs immediately, and appeal to others to convince them to quit. The broadcasts mention not only the peoples' names, but also their addresses, the number of children they have, and other information, the source said.

Galilee Clerics Initiate Pro-Palestinian Action

TA251344 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Christian clerics in the Galilee villages have begun to organize a protest against the government policy in the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the protest is being organized by the priest Shihadah Shihadah from Kafr Yasif, who is known for his good relations with RAKAH. So far four Christian clerics, one Druze cleric, and one Muslim cleric have joined the initiative. They have decided to hold a special rally in Nazareth next week to protest the government policy in the territories.

Our correspondent also reports that seven people, including students, have been detained and interrogated in the Arab villages in the Galilee and the Triangle. They are suspected of having painted swastikas on public buildings, as well as slogans against the government's policy in the territories and in support of the PLO.

Further on Unrest in Territories, Jerusalem

'Relative Calm' in Jerusalem

TA251234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Relative calm prevails in Jerusalem and there were only minor disturbances today. This morning students from an East Jerusalem school erected a roadblock which was quickly dismantled. Later there was a gathering near a mosque in the 'Anata refugee camp. An almost total commercial strike is under way in East Jerusalem and only a few schools are open. Most shops are open in other towns in Judaea and Samaria.

'Elements' Try To Revive Riots

TA251936 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Quiet prevailed in Judaea and Samaria today, except for a few stonethrowing incidents. Commerce was generally normal after the Military Government opened stores in several spots.

The curfew in the village of Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta and the blockade on the village of Si'ir remain in force.

Nationalistic elements in the territories are attempting to revive the riots. They are headed by the United National Command. The bodies which 2 weeks ago called for a general 3-day strike heralded the appearance of a new body: The United National Command of the Uprising [hahanhaga hale'umit hame'uhedet lehitna'arut]. So far, the body is responsible for several leaflets. Many Ramallah walls are also covered by graffiti painted and signed by it. Arab sources say this is the body which took upon itself leadership of the riots in the territories—what they term the awakening, the national struggle. The body is something similar to the defunct Arab National Guidance Committee. Some Israeli sources doubt that there is anything beyond the pompous name.

Other sources believe this is a coalition of various local operating elements, such as nationalistic figures, nationalistic institutions, Al-Shabibah leaders, heads of groups, and miscellaneous organizations. The coalition's modus operandi involves loose cooperation among its members, mainly calling for coordination and the postponement of internal strife until a later date. A cease-fire was thus declared between the Muslim and the leftist elements in Gaza and in Jerusalem. The question is whether this body will survive when the riots die down and the internal strife increases.

'Violent' Incident in Rafah

TA252049 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The IDF today forcibly dispersed a violent demonstration in Rafah. The demonstrators pelted an IDF patrol with stones, forcing the soldiers to disperse the attackers with blows and tear gas.

With the exclusion of this incident, quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip today. The defense establishment is considering a complete lift of the curfew in Jabalyah, the last refugee camp in which movement is still restricted.

Commercial Strike 26 Jan

TA260943 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The commercial strike has resumed in several towns in the territories this morning. A general strike is under way in Janin and Nabulus, whereas some of the shops in Ramallah were opened this morning. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Defense Minister Rabin visited the Judaea and Samaria headquarters this morning and was briefed by the commander of the Central Command and the head of the Civilian Administration. The defense minister was accompanied by the chief of staff. Senior officers serving in the region also participated in the discussions.

'Terrorists' Resume Activities

TA191715 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jan 88 p A9

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] The 600 terrorists who were exchanged for three Israeli captives in 1985 as part of the deal with Jibril and who have remained in the territories have become something of a symbol and hero in the eyes of thousands of local youths. Most of these terrorists have not renounced their subversive anti-Israeli activity and some have even led armed squads—after their release, that is.

As the swap with Jibril was being worked out, certain military assessments were circulating pointing out the probable danger involved in letting the 600 terrorists remain in the territories or in Israel. The first warning signals came in the form of the capture of terrorist squads led by individuals who had been released in the deal. It was common knowledge that others stepped up their workings among those who were not actively engaged in anti-Israel activity. They even launched incitement campaigns to train people for the struggle. They became the leaders who sponsored a younger generation of activists so unperturbed by the prospect of arrest that they dubbed the jails "hero academies."

The most violent squad, which was headed by three persons who were released in the Jibril deal, organized in the Jerusalem area and numbered 20 terrorists who carried out brutal murders. That squad, which was captured in May 1986, admitted to having murdered a British tourist and a Jewish woman and wounding two other tourists. It had a long hitlist of potential targets for assassination. Three of the squad leaders—'Ali al-Bazyan, 'Ali Muslimini, and Ibrahim 'Awdah—were given long prison terms.

A month after the uncovering of that squad, Zayd Abu 'Ayn, who activated a bomb in Tiberias in 1982, killing two young people and injuring others, was also caught. Abu 'Ayn, who fled to the United States immediately after the attack and was extradited and sentenced to life, actually served only 3 years and, after his release, tried to hijack an Israeli bus with the help of a Gaza terrorist squad. This time he was given a 35-month prison term.

The security forces captured and tried other terrorists who, after their release as part of the deal, nonetheless engaged in terrorist activity, organized terrorist squads, and were subsequently caught. Thus, we know, for example, about the brothers Nasir and Akram Sharif from the town of Silwad near the settlement of 'Ofra, one of whom was killed while preparing an explosive charge. The surviving sibling, wounded, tipped the investigators about another squad that was training for attacks. That squad, too, was headed by people released as part of the Jibril deal.

During the past 2 years, 26 people who were thus released were deported, of whom 7 [figure as published] were agitators: Jihad Mayami, who was appointed by Fatah's Al-Shabibah youth movement as a central activist; Hasan 'Ammudi, and Jalal 'Azayzah from Gaza, who rejoined the PFLP; 'Adnan Ghanim, also from Gaza, who reentered Fatah ranks; Yunis Rajub from Hebron, who launched operations to enlist people to Fatah; and Zaki Abu Sitah, a resident of the Jabalyah refugee camp.

Two of the latest nine deportees, who were transferred to Lebanon last week—Jibril al-Rajub and Jamal Jabarah—had also been released in the Jibril deal. They played an active behind-the-scenes role in the latest incitement within the framework of the so-called "uprising" in the region. Al-Rajub, a resident of Dura in the Hebron Hills, was an active central figure in Fatah just prior to his deportation. Before that, he led terrorist squads that carried out many murderous attacks and was sentenced to life. A fellow terrorist, Jabarah from Qalqilyah, was a central activist in the local chapter of Fatah and an Al-Shabibah leader. Many of those who were released in the deal were appointed by the terrorist organizations to serve as guides in the Al-Shabibah branches.

Others who were released are operating overtly or covertly within local groups affiliated with the terrorist organizations. Some of them are under administrative detention orders and they also include some Israeli civilians residing within the Green Line. The possibility is not dismissed that "heavyweight" terrorists who were released in the deal have meanwhile been promoted by the organizations for whom they operated and were the moving force behind the current unrest. These include the spiritual leader of the fanatic Muslim organization in Gaza, Al-Mujama' al-Islami, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

The more cultured and better educated of those who had been released have reestablished themselves in places where they can spread their ideology, such as schools, universities, and the East Jerusalem press. Dozens have been assimilated into the local political establishments of societies and associations representing various branches of the terrorist organizations.

Many have tried their luck in the Israeli "black labor" market. Many did not work at all and therefore constituted an easy target for recruitment by organizations offering money to anti-Israeli activists. Some terrorists who were released in that deal tried to go overseas. Some of them got married and refused to again engage in subversive activity. Those who tried to set up their own businesses and abandon the path of terrorism were subjected to intimidation, harassment, and threats by their comrades. There were even cases in which the terrorist organizations burned down their businesses and branded them as traitors.

Islamic Jihad Leader in Gaza Details Goals

TA201919 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jan 88 pp 1, 4

[Report on an interview with unidentified Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza by Etyan Rabin, on 18 and 19 January in unnamed mosque in Gaza]

[Excerpts] Under a shroud of secrecy and after taking precautions against the Shin Bet, inhabitants of Gaza yesterday and the day before allowed me to meet members of the Islamic Jihad radical religious organization. Islamic Jihad is responsible for the murder of several Israelis in the Gaza Strip over the last 2 years. The meeting with one of the leaders was held on the condition that the identity of my interlocutor should not be revealed. [passage omitted]

[Rabin] What is the Islamic Jihad?

[Unidentified leader] Islamic Jihad is a religious organization. Contrary to other organizations in the Gaza Strip, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, we want to free the land only by force. We aspire to change the whole world and in turn convert it to Islam with the help of weapons and to kill all infidels, including the Zionist Jews. Our organization does not believe in any solution by an Arab ruler, because no Arab president has found a solution. Our movement believes that by using weapons it can do away with the occupation. One of the things our movement says is: If something was taken from you by force you must regain it by force. Therefore, the stone we throw and the knife we use are our lever for the annihilation of the occupation.

[Rabin] How many members are there in the organization?

[Unidentified leader] Nobody can answer that question for you. This is a secret organization. There are members who do not know other members in the organization; only the leaders of the groups know the people.

[Rabin] When someone wants to join the organization, what must he do?

[Unidentified leader] If you want to join the organization you do not approach anybody. The organization will reach you, either through a friend or through relatives who are members. You will only know the head of your group, and that is all.

[Rabin] How does one become a member?

[Unidentified leader] You fill out a questionnaire in which you are asked your name, whether you are a religious Muslim, whether you work, how much money you make, what your hobbies are, your marital status, whether you have any children, what your parents do, whether you belonged to any other organization before you decided to join Islamic Jihad, whether you were arrested in the past, and whether you have any proposals for fighting the Jews.

For example, we had one member who was accepted into our organization who wrote in his application that he proposes to kidnap Jews who would later be released in exchange for terrorists. All those joining the organization get a six-digit number and an alias, such as Abu Musa, and then he begins to operate. He is assigned to the head of a group who is then responsible for him and who is his only contact.

[Rabin] Why does the organization kill Jews?

[Unidentified leader] Because the State of Israel is not a lawful state. Instead of living with us in peace, Israel rules us. It took our land away from us. Look what your soldiers are doing in the refugee camps. The soldiers beat up children, women, and elderly people. They do not give them food. Do you see this boy? He managed to escape the curfew on Jabalyah. Soldiers broke into his father's house and beat him up.

[Rabin] How do members of the organization make a living?

[Unidentified leader] Everybody makes his own living. I used to work as a foreman in Israel. Our organization includes engineers, physicians, lawyers, students, and "ordinary" people. They share one thing: their belief in Islamic Jihad's ideology.

[Rabin] Does it also include women?

[Unidentified leader] I do not know. So far I have not encountered any women, but I have heard that a woman worked for the organization a few months ago, relaying letters to leaders in Jordan. I do not know who the woman is, however.

[Rabin] Your spiritual leader, Shaykh Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Awda, has been arrested. Who is replacing him?

[Unidentified leader] There are many leaders in this organization, but nobody will say he is with Islamic Jihad. Shaykh 'Awda also does not admit he belongs to Islamic Jihad. I was arrested once and asked whether I belonged to Islamic Jihad and I told them: No.

[Rabin] What is your daily routine?

[Unidentified leader] We do not have a daily routine. We work normally and we pray a lot.

[Rabin] How is the decision to kill a Jew made?

[Unidentified leader] I told you. There are groups. We meet at home and decide to kill Jews. The members of the group inform their commander that they are going to kill Jews. They go to Gaza, buy knives, and proceed from there. There are no advance preparations.

[Rabin] Who do you have problems with?

[Unidentified leader] Most of our problems are with the Shin Bet. We think the Shin Bet wants to infiltrate spies into our organization, but to this day we have not caught any collaborators. The minute we catch collaborators, we will kill them.

[Rabin] Have new members joined the organization in the wake of the riots?

[Unidentified leader] Many new members have joined the organization since the eruption of the riots in Gaza, but I do not know how many. We know that thousands of Gaza inhabitants are members of Islamic Jihad. Even those who are not members believe in a Muslim state and in our ideology. Those who are in jail study the organization's ideology.

[Rabin] What do you do in the mosques?

[Unidentified leader] We pray in the mosques and teach our ideology to worshippers. Boys and young men, all of them religious Muslims, come here. Hundreds of children aged 6 to 15 study the ideology of Islamic Jihad in the mosques.

[Rabin] Is it true there are weapons in the mosques?

[Unidentified leader] There are no weapons whatsoever.

[Rabin] Would you be prepared to sit down and talk with Jews?

[Unidentified leader] I am prepared to talk with anybody on the condition that they give back our country and our land. We were taken out of this land by force and I have said we will regain it by force. I would like to tell you something else: You have a radical prime minister, he does not care about the Arabs. We are prepared to die for our motherland. All those who die are martyrs.

[Rabin] Other people, all of them religious Muslims who consider themselves members of the organization, took part in the interview. Despite their strong utterances, all of them claimed they had not perpetrated any terrorist attacks against Israel.

Tunisia's Baccouche Arrives, Makes Statement

JN252010 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Amman this evening on a 3-day visit to Jordan. He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the ministers, the Amman mayor, the chief of staff, the director general of public security, the Amman governor, the Amman police director, a number of senior officials, the doyen of the Arab diplomatic missions, and the Tunisian ambassador in Amman. Baccouche was accorded an official reception.

In a statement to our correspondent, the Tunisian prime minister praised Jordan's role under His Majesty King Husayn in supporting Arab solidarity.

[Begin Baccouche recording] Since he assumed power, President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali has affirmed that Tunisia will adopt a pan-Arab trend, including continuous consultations with all Arab brothers on developments in the situation within our country, developments in the region, solidarity moves in the Arab Maghreb, and the current situation in the Arab east.

As a result of His Majesty King Husayn's sagacity and his full awareness of the Arab situation, as well as his continuous efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, the Tunisian president asked me to bring a message to his majesty on these issues. I am happy to carry out this mission on behalf of our president.

I am also happy to meet with my brother and colleague, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, with whom I will discuss all these issues and bilateral relations. This cooperation may produce good results. Only a few Arab countries have achieved economic and trade exchange such as that achieved by Tunisia and Jordan. This is due not only to the political trend in both countries, but also to the capability of businessmen and economists in both countries. We should support this trend to continue our cooperation in all areas. [end recording]

Husayn Leaves for Baghdad; Baccouche Departs

JN261342 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Baghdad at noon today on a short working visit to the Republic of Iraq during which he will hold talks with his brother, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, within the framework of the constant coordination and consultations being undertaken by the two fraternal states.

The talks will deal with developments in the occupied Arab territories which have been accentuated by the kinfolk's uprising there—the uprising which has created a new climate that stresses the need to convene an international peace conference as the sole means to bring about an honorable and just solution in the region.

The two great leaders' talks will also deal with coordinating Arab stands on regional issues before the beginning of His Majesty King Husayn's European tour, which will take place in the near future in implementation of the historic resolutions adopted at the Amman summit. This tour will enable the king to explain the unified Arab stand vis-a-vis pan-Arab issues through his majesty's talks with the leaders of the European states which his majesty will visit. Foremost among these issues are ending the Iraq-Iran war on the basis of Resolution 598 and the Arab consensus on the need to find a just and comprehensive solution to all aspects of the Palestine question.

His majesty the king was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister; the chief of the Royal Household; the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court; and the Tunisian ambassador in Amman.

His Majesty was accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister; Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; and Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, information minister.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche also left on board His Majesty King Husayn's plane following his 2-day visit to Jordan.

AL-RA'Y on Soviet Proposal, Murphy Tour

JN240921 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jan 88 p 1

[Editorial: "An Arab Welcoming of the Soviet Proposal"]

[Text] Jordan has officially welcomed the Soviet proposal which called on the UN Security Council to shoulder its responsibilities in accordance with the UN Charter. It also called for activating the Council's permanent member states' efforts to prepare for convening an international peace conference designed to bring about a just, comprehensive, and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Clearly this proposal goes in line with and supports the collective Arab stand that was adopted at the Amman summit and also coincides with the uprising being staged by our kinfolk who are living under occupation.

The Soviet proposal is an effective and serious step that can contribute toward advancing the peace process. The official Jordanian welcoming of the proposal can also be looked upon as a welcome by all Arabs in appreciation of the constructive Soviet stand.

What is comforting is that official Soviet sources emphasized in Moscow yesterday the nature of the projected international conference. These sources said that this conference should have full powers. This means the conference should play a genuine and tangible role in reaching the desired just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement. Such a role would elevate this conference above the bogus protocol role with which Shim'on Peres seeks to shackle it if Israel were to accept the convening of this conference.

The fact that the Soviet proposal was made means that the negative U.S. stand toward the peace process in the Middle East is no longer tolerated in any form by anyone. We cannot fail to note that this indicator represents an unequivocal call to Washington to reconsider its stand to harmonize with the international will, which has unanimously called for convening an international conference and which also believes that this conference is the only way to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

While appreciating this positive Soviet stand, the Arabs view with many reservations the news reports that U.S. envoy Richard Murchy will tour the region in the near future. Naturally, many doubt such a tour will contribute to advancing the peace process as long as the negative U.S. stand toward this process remains unchanged.

Anyhow, it must be recalled that U.S. policy will not be able to obstruct the peace process indefinitely. As long as the kinfolk living under occupation persist in their heroic struggle and as long as their struggle is met with genuine support from the Arabs, many developments are bound to occur. These developments are certain to lead to an international move that will successfully contribute toward establishing a genuine peace in the region.

AL-DUSTUR Views U.S. Moves in Region

JN251102 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 88 p 26

[From the "Spotlights" column: "What Does the United States Want?" by the political editor]

[Text] Now that it is facing a dilemma, the United States wants to circumvent the Soviet Union's call to convene a Security Council meeting at the foreign minister level that will bring about an international Middle East peace conference, to circumvent the EC's active role and clear support for the convening of such a conference and, consequently, to circumvent the Palestinian people's uprising and its great results.

Washington has invited Yitzhaq Shamir to arrange such circumvention with him. It is also encouraging parties in the area to put forward proposals that go half the way. The objective is clear; namely, to call for a "regional conference" that culminates with direct bilateral talks.

Then, once agreement has been reached, everyone, including the permanent members of the Security Council, will go to the "international conference" for a commemorative photograph.

As we have said, the aim of such a U.S. scenario is to circumvent the movement whose signs now appear, to return the area to a state of stalemate and paralysis, and to give the Palestinians and Arabs who are committed to the cause a tranquilizer that will last them another 20 years—similar to the past 20 years that included the Scranton plan, the Rogers plan, Kissinger's shuttle trips, Al-Sadat's initiative, the Reagan plan, and scores of plans hatched by George Shultz' hatred caused by his frustration following the abrogation of Lebanon's May agreement [with Israel].

The Palestinians pose a problem to Israeli expansion. All that the U.S. Administration has done and is doing is to solve the Israeli problem, or attempt to solve it, and nothing else. The only U.S. requirement is to completely remove the Palestinians or to put them outside the game by finding alternatives to all that self-determination entails.

The Israelis are concerned only with the "Land of Israel" and as long as there are Palestinians living on the "Land of Israel" then that is a problem for which the United States must find a solution outside Palestine and outside the Palestinian decision. That is the "noble" U.S. mission. Israel's fingers are being burned in the occupied territory and its face gets contorted whenever it faces the difficult solution.

Therefore, because the United States is in the service of the Israeli master, it has to confront and find the difficult Palestinian solution. The only solution which the United States has mastered so far is to halt and foil Arab action and keep it in a state of limbo and wait for the presidential elections, which are more than 200 years old and will probably continue—in the manner of the Third Reich—for 1,000 years.

Matters have never been so clear and yet the Arab ostrich is greatly enjoying the hot desert sands.

Al-Rasi Fears Assassinations Before Elections

NC251826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi met with Judge Joseph Juraysati, director general of the Presidential Office, at Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies] for 30 minutes today.

After the meeting, Minister al-Rasi said: We reviewed a number of decrees which are currently under discussion and which will be sent to the Presidential Palace. The results were positive. Director General Juraysati cannot make the decisions, but in light of what he will convey to the president we hope that the results will be good, God willing.

With regard to the security situation, Minister al-Rasi said: I do not believe that this situation will change, nor will there be a general escalation. However, we do fear that there might be attacks on individuals; namely, assassinations as the presidential elections near. Politicians, such as deputies, and some journalists are especially at risk.

Paqraduni Sets Conditions for Transition

NC230917 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Attorney Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has declared that the Lebanese Forces are ready to participate in any transitional government established in the event of a constitutional vacuum, if this government's goals would be to achieve solution and liberation. We would oppose a government, whether transitional or not, if it planned to work with the occupation and consolidate it, he added.

Amal Official Al-Darwish Released 25 Jan

NC251456 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Hasan Darwish al-Darwish, who has been detained by the Palestinian Revolutionary Council for 1 year and 32 days, was released at the house of Engineer Ustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization in Sidon, at noon today.

Engineer Sa'd received Al-Darwish in the presence of Amal Movement official Muhammad al-Salih and the relatives of Al-Darwish.

Birri on Camps War, Palestinian Uprising

NC231459 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has stressed that the camps war is over. He said that the solution for the war that he has announced is not a truce but a new chapter. The old chapter that was opened in 1976 is closed, he asserted. He added that the issue of the situation east of Sidon is in the hands of the Palestinians. He also thanked fraternal Syria for supporting the initiative.

Speaking at a news conference, Birri described the Palestinian uprising as a real revolution. He said that only this uprising can restore Arab Palestine and save Lebanon from the plot of [Palestinian] settlement. He asked why no Arab summit is to be held to discuss the Camp David accords and help the uprising. He added that the Soviet Union is preparing an initiative on the uprising. This is separate from the question of an international conference, he said.

Birri warned the Arab countries and the Lebanese people that the proposal to elect a Lebanese president before reconciliation has taken place is a plot. He said that the opportunity to contribute to salvation should not be wasted, and that it is necessary to restore Lebanon's unity.

Palestinian Delegation Praises Camp Moves

JN231520 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut—The unified Palestinian delegation has thanked the Syrian leadership and Armed Forces for their contribution to cementing gaps between brothers and restoring normal life to the camps.

Reports say that at the conclusion of its meeting yesterday, the unified Palestinian delegation expressed great appreciation for the consent of the brothers in the Syrian leadership to assign Syrian forces the task of maintaining security in the Beirut camps. In a statement, the delegation asserted that the presence of the Syrian Arab forces on the perimeter of the camps is a guarantee of our people's security and a source of reassurance to the people of the camps and nearby areas. The statement reiterated the eagerness of the people in the camps and all Palestinian fighters to facilitate the tasks of the Syrian forces and enable them to carry out their duties in the best manner possible.

The delegation also expressed its appreciation for the Lebanese parties, forces, and national figures which have contributed toward reconciliation and the restoration of normal conditions. The delegation called on the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples to transcend the past and to begin organizing joint militant cooperation to liberate the south and all Zionist-occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. The delegation said that it has decided to begin complete withdrawal of the revolutionary forces via the Sidon-Iqlim al-Tuffah road tomorrow. The delegation also expressed its appreciation of Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's decision to lift the siege of the camps, voicing its satisfaction with the recent practical steps taken in this regard.

14 'Detained' Since Syrian Deployment

NC240650 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Some 14 Palestinians have been detained since the Syrian forces' deployment around the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. Most of the detained Palestinians are members of Fatah or those accused of cooperating with Fatah.

Tension Follows Bombing of Qazzaz House

NC231104 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] According to security reports, tension prevails in a number of areas in the southern suburb, where gunmen are on the alert and the sound of machinegun fire is heard. It has been learned that some shops there have started closing down. Tension follows rumors that 'Ali Qazzaz has succumbed to wounds he received this morning when an explosive device went off in front of his house in Burj al-Barajinah. Unconfirmed reports claim Qazzaz is an official of the Amal Movement.

Israeli, Lahd Forces Attack Areas in South

NC251755 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] In the resisting south, Israeli occupation forces searched an area near Al-Ahmadiyah hill, where the Israelis are stationed, at midnight last night. It has been reported that the Israelis fired several artillery shells at the area around Qilya and at Dallafah and Mazra'at Lusi, causing damage to property.

An Israeli patrol proceeded to a point 500 meters north of its position in Al-Ahmadiyah at dawn today. The patrol opened intensive machinegun fire and returned to its post 1 hour later.

The occupation forces have also sent a convoy of half-track vehicles to the vicinity of Jazzin, Kafr Hunah, and Al-Surayri. The vehicles deployed on several hills overlooking the liberated areas.

The NNA correspondent in Hasbayya has reported that machinegun fire was directed from agent Lahd's position in Tallat Zummarayya toward Mimis and Jabal al-Dahr hills for about 1 hour today. Hursh al-Sinawbar, east of 'Ayn Qinya, came under mortar fire from Lahd's position in Tallat 'Ayn Qinya for about 30 minutes at approximately 0600 today.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied sector of Hasbayya for about 4 hours this morning. One helicopter landed at the 'Ayn Qinya position, remaining there for several hours. The reasons are not known.

Israeli armored vehicles were seen moving in Ibil al-Saqy plain at approximately 0730 today.

Israeli Forces Besiege Southern Town

NC252024 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] For 4 days now, the Israeli occupation forces have been maintaining an economic and military siege on the town of Al-Qantarah, preventing the town's inhabitants from leaving or entering the town, and exercising all kinds of [words indistinct] against them.

Sources close to UNIFIL are reported as saying that Israeli forces arrested five Al-Qantarah residents and stormed over 40 houses in the town last night.

Israelis Guard Against Return of Deportees

NC260830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Security sources in the south report that Israeli mechanized forces have been seen moving in the areas of Ibil al-Saqiy, the Al-Ahmadiyah hills, Kafr Hunah, and Al-Surayri.

The security sources also say that the occupation forces have given orders to Israeli troops and agent Lahd militiamen manning roadblocks to open fire on any international or Lebanese Red Cross vehicle, particularly in the Hasbayya area, in order to prevent any attempts to return the four deportees to the occupied areas.

Reportage on Visit by Tunisia's Baccouche

Arrives 24 Jan

JN241334 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Damascus at 1200 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who welcomed him at Damascus International Airport. Also present to receive him were Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Mohamed Amamu, the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Zu'bi and Baccouche then headed for the dais where the national anthems of both the Republic of Tunisia and the Syrian Arab Republic were played. They reviewed the guards of honor. Baccouche also shook hands with the senior officials who came to receive him. These included the two deputy prime ministers, the ministers, the Damascus governor, and the Tunisian Embassy staff in Damascus. They then headed in an official motorcade to the guest's place of residence in Damascus.

In a press statement to journalists, the Tunisian prime minister stressed the deep relationship binding the two fraternal peoples in Tunisia and Syria.

He added that Tunisia's relations with the Syrian leadership, with President Hafiz al-Asad, and with the leaders of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party encourage us to take opportunities to hold consultations and talks on Arab affairs, especially when we take into account that a historic transformation was brought about in Tunisia on 7 November 1987—one that brought Zine El Abedine Ben Ali to the Tunisian presidency. Ben Ali has since then attached to these relations the due position and top priority in Tunisian policy.

Baccouche said he is carrying a message from President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

He added that he will hold talks on the situation in Tunisia and the Arab Maghreb, the Arab nation's situation in the eastern part of the Arab homeland, the repercussions of the Iraq-Iran war in the Arab region, and the good signs that have arisen in the aftermath of the blessed uprising being staged by the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories.

Responding to a question on the Syrian role in Lebanon, Baccouche said: We attach great importance to the Syrian role in Lebanon and the entire Arab region.

He added: Lebanon is a part of the Arab arena in which Syria is playing a great role. With cooperation, consultations, and solidarity, we hope this role will be a strong and effective one and will achieve all objectives of the Arab nation.

Baccouche is accompanied by a delegation comprising the minister of planning, the mufti of the Republic of Tunisia, and the head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Meets With Al-Ahmar

JN241745 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] This afternoon, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met with Hedi Baccouche, secretary general of the Tunisian Destourian Socialist Party [DSP] and Tunisian prime minister.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, talks dealt with the fraternal relations between the Ba'th Party and the DSP and ways to promote these relations to serve the struggle of both parties and that of the two fraternal countries, Syria and Tunisia. The talks also reviewed developments in the Arab arena and issues of mutual interest.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the need to pool and unify Arab resources to confront the hostile Zionist and imperialist schemes which have as their target the Arabs' existence and the Arab struggle's central cause, the Palestinian question.

The two sides noted the greatness of the kinfolk's continued uprising in the occupied Arab territories in confronting the Zionist occupation forces and condemned the savage repression and persecution these forces are carrying out against Arab citizens in the Arab territories.

They also emphasized that this uprising, which has brought the Palestine question to the focus of attention on Arab and international levels, has reaffirmed the impossibility of continuing this occupation and that struggle is the premise to regain the usurped rights and liberate the occupied Arab territories.

Received by Al-Zu'bi

JN242031 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] At 1800 today Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and members of the delegation accompanying him.

Their talks dealt with a number of issues of interest to both countries. Afterward, the Syrian Arab side led by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Tunisian side led by Hedi Baccouche held a round of official talks.

Attending the talks on behalf of the Syrian Arab side were Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; 'Adnan Quli, minister of tourism; Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abd al-Majid Tarabulsi, religious trusts minister; the director of the prime minister's office; and the two advisers at the Prime Ministry.

It was attended for Tunisia by Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister attached to the prime minister's office for planning; Mohamed Jenifane, director of the Arab homeland's political department at the Foreign Ministry; Shaykh Mokhtar Sellami, mufti of Tunisia; Fathi el-Tounsi, plenipotentiary minister at the prime minister's office; the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus; and the prime minister's press adviser.

At the beginning of the session, Al-Zu'bi welcomed Baccouche and the members of the Tunisian delegation in their second country, Syria, which always harbors love and appreciation for the fraternal Tunisian people. He stressed the unity of pan-Arab interests, which pushes both fraternal countries toward cooperation and integration in all fields.

Al-Zu'bi also reviewed the previous phases of cooperation between the two countries, pointing to the wide scope of cooperation which Syria is eager to realize in all areas.

Baccouche thanked Al-Zu'bi for the hospitality accorded to him and to the members of his delegation in their second country, Syria. He voiced pleasure at holding this meeting and explained the old ties between the Syrian and Tunisian peoples—ties that effect a joint march between the two peoples and include all areas of cooperation. He said that following the historic change on 7 November Tunisia has been proceeding toward a thorough consideration of all domestic, Arab, and international affairs. Tunisia gives priority to its Arab affiliation, he added.

He also stressed the great role Syria is playing under President Hafiz al-Asad. Syria is assuming the forward position and shouldering the responsibility of confronting Israel with firmness and steadfastness, he said.

Baccouche also emphasized Tunisia's serious approach to expanding economic, cultural, trade, and tourist cooperation with fraternal Syria. He pointed out that Syria constitutes a major link between the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb.

Afterward, various issues connected to enhancing cooperation between the two sisterly countries were discussed. The steps that should be completed were reviewed. Also reviewed were matters related to previous agreements and concluding new agreements to serve the interests of both sisterly peoples.

At the end of the discussion of cooperation issues, it was decided to prepare a working paper as soon as possible including all economic, cultural, trade, and tourist topics, as well as the exchange of expertise and experience. This will be a prelude to a working meeting of the joint Syrian-Tunisian committee before March. This committee will discuss and embody the requirements of cooperation in all fields between the two sisterly countries.

Conveys Message to Al-Asad

LD251106 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche was received at the presidential palace this morning by President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, to whom he conveyed a message from his brother Zine El Abedine Ben Ali.

Leaves Damascus 25 Jan

JN251833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 25 Jan 88

[text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche left Damascus at 1600 today, ending a 2-day visit to the country. On hand to see him off at Damascus International Airport were Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

In a predeparture statement, Baccouche said he had conveyed greetings from the Tunisian president to his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, who asked him to express his appreciation for Tunisia and its new president.

The Tunisian prime minister went on to quote President al-Asad as saying that he was optimistic Tunisia will in the future play a role in the Arab arena commensurate with its history and past.

He discussed with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad developments in the eastern and western wings of the Arab world, Baccouche said. Given the widespread nature of President al-Asad's interests, added Baccouche, their talks took up many fateful Arab issues.

The president told him that he was determined to defend Arab rights and that he would like to see the Arabs foster their points of agreement and transcend their differences, Baccouche said. He declared that Arab unity is an inevitability and the Arab cause will eventually triumph.

Baccouche concluded by thanking His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and state and party officials for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation. He looked forward to meeting them in Tunis for follow-up talks, particularly on bilateral cooperation, to advance the interests of Syria and Tunisia and the entire Arab nation.

Czechoslovak, Ba'th Party Delegations Meet

JN251812 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The first round of talks was held this morning at the National Command Headquarters of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party between a Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general, and a Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] delegation headed by Comrade Vasil Bilak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and CPCZ Central Committee secretary.

Comrade al-Ahmar outlined changes and successes since the revolution and Syria's confrontation, led by struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, of imperialist and Zionist plots against the Arabs. He also pointed to the ferocious anti-Syrian onslaught and the hostile designs against our nation.

Meanwhile, Comrade Bilak voiced admiration for Syria's achievements under the Ba'th Party leadership and Syria's outstanding role in standing up to imperialism and Zionism and their projects in the Arab world.

Bilak Received by Al-Zu'bi

JN251905 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1800 today Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium and secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

They discussed bilateral friendship and ways to further develop cooperation in the common interests of the Syrian and Czechoslovak peoples.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Combat Activities, Successes Reported

Capture Base Near Khowst

BK260624 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin captured a Soviet-Kabul base 30 km southwest of Khowst. The Kabul forces also suffered a heavy loss of life and property. According to reports, mujahidin killed or wounded 80 soldiers in another operation in Balkh Province.

Control Gardeyz-Khowst Road

BK260152 Hong Kong AFP in English 0148 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Jan 26 (AFP)—Anti-government mujahidin armed with U.S.-made Stinger missiles have since Thursday [21 January] regained control of the strategic Gardeyz-Khowst highway in Afghanistan's eastern Paktia Province, Western and rebel sources here said.

Xavier de la Cochetiere, a physician just back from the area who works with the French humanitarian group, "Medecins Sans Frontieres," also reported heavy fighting in the area.

He said the rebel Islamic National Front had "seized control of about three kilometers (1.9 miles) of the road Thursday near the village of Allaudin and advanced several kilometers by Sunday".

Guerrilla commander Jalaluddin Haqqani of the moderate Hezb-e Eslami said Monday [25 January] that the mujahidin had forced Soviet-Afghan troops back from the road on Friday [22 January], but gave no further details.

Dr. de la Cochetiere, just back from the Zadran Valley, halfway along the 120-km (75-mile) highway, said government troops were hitting rebel positions with high-altitude SU-25 bombers and ground-to-ground BM-41 missiles.

"At night, aircraft bomb all lit areas," he said, "but most of the villages are deserted," many rebel families having sought refuge in Pakistan.

He said the Islamic National Front rebels in the Zadran area, under the command of Haji 'Abdul Kharman, were armed with U.S.-made ground-to-air Stinger missiles.

"The mujahidin have Stingers," he said. "They fired 16 during the past three months and shot down 11 planes and one helicopter."

"Combat conditions are difficult," Dr. de la Cochetiere added. "There are 20 centimeters (eight inches) of snow on the ground and the temperature at night is 10 below zero (centigrade—14 Fahrenheit).

"The rebels took their families to safety and then returned," he said. "The (rebel) tribes have now rallied again and are fighting." [passage omitted]

Attacks in Ghazni, Herat

BK251543 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Reports reaching here from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin attacked a military camp at Moqor subdivision in Ghazni Province and killed 13 Soviet-Kabul soldiers, including 1 colonel and 2 captains. Two tanks and several other vehicles were also damaged during the attack.

The mujahidin killed (?60) Soviet-Kabul soldiers in a rocket attack on a military post in Herat city and completely destroyed the wireless system.

Pakistani Negotiating Stand 'More Realistic'

LD242145 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The arrival once again of Diego Cordovez, the special negotiator of the UN secretary general, in Kabul is another opportunity for the political authorities in the Republic of Afghanistan to move toward a settlement of the Afghan situation.

In light of various consecutive developments, which have appeared as a result of prompt efforts by the UN secretary general's envoy and the logical participation by the Republic of Afghanistan, one can hope that this visit might be more positive [word indistinct] and that Diego Cordovez will be the harbinger of good news for the people in the region.

Regarding the responsibility of the Republic of Afghanistan, the political and diplomatic circles of our country have always expressed their interest and profound goodwill in all contacts which deal with a rapid solution to the existing issues. They have shown new [word indistinct] of flexibility, concessions, and moderation.

In contrast with the Republic of Afghanistan, however, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the past has not shown political goodwill and has in particular tried to dig in its heels and prepare the ground for further interference by the warmongering forces stationed in Pakistan. Nevertheless, generally sound progress in the situation indicates that the leaders of Pakistan have slowly changed their stands from those [words indistinct] and inflexible ones to a more realistic one. A number of political affairs officials of that country regard the next round of indirect talks in Geneva between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as a cause for hope.

For our part, we also consider these positive signals to be a sign of goodwill and we hope the Pakistani delegation's trip to Geneva will be a serious visit imbued with this. The delegation should not arrive for talks and conversation as in the past.

From the political viewpoint, the anatomy of this issue shows that, in the final analysis, the continuation of tension and conflict between two Muslim neighboring countries will not bode well for either of them in the future. Even though the Pakistani leadership wants to keep the Afghan situation inflamed, it still cannot keep this problem from being a cause for concern. By strengthening the financial and military assistance to forces which foment discord, the Pakistani leadership gave a permanent [word indistinct] to the tension.

The national reconciliation policy and public [word indistinct] of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the formation of a coalition government, including opposition representatives, and the political sovereignty of Afghanistan are signs of the wisdom, expertise, goodwill, and foresight of the country's leadership.

Only in light of this policy can a decisive solution to the Afghan situation be found. Only in this way can Pakistan again become a brother with the same faith in the region's politics and use the financial and moral potential of its people in reconstructing Pakistan and cooperating with regional countries.

Amin Visits Czechoslovakia, Holds Talks

For coverage of the visit of Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, including his talks with CSSR First Deputy Prime Minister Rudolf Rohlicek and other officials, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 25 January East Europe DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

USSR Academy of Sciences Delegation Leaves

LD212143 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The delegation of the USSR Academy of Sciences, headed by Academician Guriy Ivanovich Marchuk, head of this academy, who had come to Kabul for an official and friendy visit at the invitation of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Afghanistan, left yesterday for their country.

At Kabul airport the delegation was seen off by Niyaz Muhammad Muhmand, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Candidate Academician Kabir Ranjbar, deputy head of the Afghanistan Academy of Sciences; and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in Kabul.

During their stay in the Republic of Afghanistan, the delegation met with party and government leaders and leaders of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Afghanistan and held useful talks on deepening and expanding scientific cooperation between the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR Academy of Sciences.

During the stay of the guest delegation, talks were held on scientic cooperation and the exchange of experience between scientists.

The Soviet side approved a proposal by the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan concerning the formation of a complex research delegation in various areas. During the meetings, talks were held on scientific, economic, and technical cooperation regarding the design and construction of an academy village for Afghanistan's Academy of Sciences.

The delegates also considered the provision of further facilities for the (?Soviet esperanto) students in the USSR Academy of Sciences and the science academies of the Soviet Republics, and the pursuit of scientific research in seismological centers, chemistry and physic laboratories, and mechanical workshops.

They held talks on opening scientific study on the joint flight of cosmonauts from the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and in this respect the necessary decisions were made.

As a result of these talks, a 5-year scientific cooperation agreement was signed. Included in the agreement was an exchange of visits by the scholars of science academies of the two countries and a protocol for gratis assistance from the USSR Academy of Sciences to Afghanistan's Academy of Sciences in 1988.

Azerbaijan SSR Donates Goods to Paktia, Faryab

LD241016 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Azerbaijan SSR today gave officials in Paktia Province a total of 28 pieces of technical equipment, valued at more than 200,000 rubles. Among the items are power generators, power equipment and spare parts, vehicles and equipment needed for road construction, medical equipment, water pumps, and technical and transportation equipment.

A BIA correspondent reports from Gardeyz city that since Azerbaijan SSR began sending direct aid in the form of goods to Paktia Province, 3,640 items of various types of equipment have arrived in this province and have been put to use.

In line with the free assistance given by the friendly Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan, goods were sent recently to Maymanah city, Faryab Province, aboard 77 vehicles. According to a relevant source, these goods, which include [word indistinct]; cloth, shoes, suits, materials, bed coverings, sugar, and matches, will be distributed to deserving people.

Ghazni, Paktika Sign Pact With Moldavian SSR

LD232055 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 21, BAKHTAR—A protocol of cooperation for the supply of power energy for Ghazni and Paktika Provinces was signed between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic here Tuesday.

According to the agreement, at a value of over 500,000 [currency not specified] electric machineries and equipment will be provided for the electrification of the provinces.

The Soviet side will expedite specialists for the projects. Training of Afghan personnel in Moldavia are also envisaged in the protocol. Similarly, a protocol on the supply and purchase of re-export equipment needed in the Yatim Taq and Jorqdoq gas mines and petrol and gas exploitation, was also signed here.

Re-export equipment at a cost of 80,000 dollars and other material at a cost of five million roubles will be submitted to the Afghan side in a two years time.

With the signing of the protocol areas of utilisation of the Yatim Taq and Jorqdoq and the growth of gas deposits in the northern part of the country will be materialised.

Afro-Asian Writers Symposium Held in Kabul

LD241357 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 23, BAKHTAR—International symposium of writers under the title of "Writers and National Reconciliation" was inaugurated here today.

The writers and cultural figures of Asian and African Continents participated in the symposium.

Opening the symposium, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, talked about the mission and role of writers in explaining the objectives of the policy of national reconciliation. The prime minister spoke about the gains of the policy of national reconciliation in securing peace and expediting the socio-economic activities and the active participation of writers in this process.

Abdurrahim Hatif, chairman of the High Commission for National Reconciliation and president of Central Council of National Front, in his speech described the symposium as a valuable step in introducing the basic aspects of the policy of reconciliation in national and international arena.

The speakers stressed on the need to consolidate peace in the Asian-African countries as well as in the world. They also called the policy of national reconciliation as an important and valuable step taken for the consolidation of peace and termination to war and bloodshed.

The speakers at the symposium emphasized that the continuation of the policy of national reconciliation can provide the grounds for securing nation-wide peace and a prosperous life in Afghanistan. They gave their high support to the measures taken by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan for national reconciliation.

Today's session was attended by Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribes and frontier affairs who is a recipient of a prize of LOTUS magazine awarded to him by the publication organ of the writers of Asia and Africa.

Other participants of the symposium are Shisham Sahni, acting president of Afro-Asian Writers Society; 'Ali Orsan, president of Writers Society of Syria; a Soviet writer, Esine Traore; Mamajou, a Singalese writer; Kurihara, Japanese president of Writers Association; and writer Anatoliy Sofronov. [names as received]

In the afternoon session, Candidate Academician Dr. Akram Osman; Gunasena, a Sri Lankan writer; D.A. Silva from Mozambique; Sonjzo from Korea; Sangham from Kampuchea; spoke at the symposium about writer and national reconciliation and its role in human society for securing peace and security. The speakers in their speeches talked about the hot point of tension which has come about due to the hostile actions of reaction and international imperialism. They explained the role of the writers for serving the humanity in rescuing them from the misery of war and bloodshed. The writers also demonstrated the firm support of their countries to the policy of national reconciliation.

Later, the draft resolution of the symposium was read by Academician Dr. Ahmad Jawid, which was unanimously approved.

Dastagir Panjsheri on behalf of Writers Association of Afghanistan called the valuable results of international symposium as a live example of the elevation of international credibility of the Republic of Afghanistan and the principledness of national reconciliation.

Over two hundred Afghan writers and literary and cultural figures, members of the Secretariat of Afro-Asian Writers Society as well as writers from the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, India, Japan, Syria, Kampuchea, Sri Lanka, People's Republic of Korea, Mozambique and Senegal had participated in the symposium.

Keshtmand Addresses Symposium

LD250645 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 24, BAKHTAR—This symposium is convened at a time when the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and the state of the Afghan Republic endeavouring tirelessly to execute the policy of national reconciliation, said Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, in the international symposium on "Writers and National Reconciliation" here on January 23.

The convening of the symposium is of special interest to us. To achieve national reconciliation, we have adequate potential at our disposal. In the past one year we did much to put into action the fresh political principles arising from the policy of national reconciliation. We ratified the Constitution of Afghanistan in Loya Jirgah, Grand Assembly, of Afghanistan. We built up the new political system based on historical realism. We took certain initial steps toward the dividing of power, formation of a multi-party system, and a coalition administration from top to bottom and vice versa.

In the year after the national reconciliation was proclaimed, over forty thousand armed men from the opposition responded to dialogue and national reconciliation policy by desisting resistence. Over three thousand and two hundred villages were freed peacefully and joined the people's power. Over one hundred and ten thousand refugees returned home. Six thousand ex-opposition representatives are working in coalition organs, and twelve thousand prisoners have been released, the prime minister added.

These are not figures merely, behind them lie the truth of the course chosen by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and of the powerful attraction of the new policy.

On account of the flexible and creative positions of the Afghan sovereignty and the disinterested aid of our international friends, the Soviet Union, in particular, a favourable atmosphere has been [word indistinct] for political settlement of the issues around Afghanistan.

In agreement with our Soviet friends, we announced in Loya Jirgah the specific twelve months period for the return of Soviet limited contingents and we are ready to negotiate the future coalition power with the opposite side. As we have made it clear time and again, all of these necessitate the haltings of U.S. imperialism aid to the opponents of Afghan revolution and an expression of goodwill on the part of the opposite side.

The complete realization of national reconciliation in Afghanistan and the halting of fighting and bloodshed that are the desire of every resident of this land, are unbreakably linked to your work and to the influences that every writer is expected to have on the people's hearts.

We are confident, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand said, the symposium "Writers and National Reconciliation" would be a powerful impetus in a joint action for peace and the halting of war in our country.

Najibullah Receives Writers

LD242158 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] This afternoon at the headquarters of the PDPA Central Committee, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received writers delegations from Asia and Africa. The delegations are participating in the international symposium on writers and reconciliation.

During this meeting, esteemed Najibullah spoke comprehensively about the country's need for national reconciliation and the gains which have been achieved in this area by the people of Afghanistan. He also described the role of writers and poets in implementing the national reconciliation policy.

During this meeting, which took place in a friendly climate, a number of questions were raised by the delegations of the Asian and African countries to which esteemed Najibullah replied. Details will be broadcast later.

National Reconciliation Progress in Paktika

LD250657 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 24, BAKHTAR—Twelve villages were declared peace zones in Paktika Province since the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation one year ago, says a representative of the Commission for National Reconciliation to a BAKHTAR reporter in Zareh Sharan, capital of that province.

Three hundred and fifty families consisting of over 1,640 persons have returned to their home from abroad. Forty one former opposition groups composed of 1,460 armed men have been observing ceasefire and negotiations are established with 16 armed groups during this period, he stated.

For the better accommodation of the returnees a "peace guesthouse" has been set up in the Orgun district. Centers for the distribution of aid goods were also established in the districts and villages of Paktika Province through which 163 tons of wheat, 15 tons of edible oil, 2,000 kilos of sugar and other foodstuffs and consumer goods have been distributed to the people so far, the representative said.

Sixty three commission for national reconciliation in the composition of which 540 social figures, elders and dignitaries including 75 members of the former opposition are included have been established in Paktika, the representative noted. [sentence as received]

Progress in Badghis Noted

LD250253 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Qal'eh-ye Now, January 23, BAKHTAR—Five hundred individuals in thirteen opposition groups have joined the national reconciliation policy in Badghis Province since the beginning of the proclamation of national reconciliation, January 15, 1987, said a representative of Badghis Provincial National Reconciliation Commission.

One thousand and four hundred and seventy four families, comprising over nine thousand people, have returned to their homes from abroad in this period, he added.

Also, the representative said, one hundred and twenty one people have been released from jail and over three hundred thousand afghanis financial aid of the province's residents have been transfered to the account of provincial national reconciliation commission.

Extremist Group 'Crushed' in Paktia Province

LD211745 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] An armed extremist group, which was engaged in robbery and terrorism in the surroundings of Kolalgu village, Zarmal district, Paktia Province, was crushed yesterday through the direct cooperation of the inhabitants.

The BIA military correspondent reported that the vigilant Armed Forces, as requested by the inhabitants and the national reconciliation commission of this district, in considering the cease-fire, entered this region, surrounded the extremist group, and asked them to lay down their weapons and surrender to the Armed Forces. However, the extremist group rejected the offer and opened fire on the Armed Forces. In order to prevent the perpetration of their crime, the Armed Forces retaliated and as a result this group has been crushed. Two rocket launchers, 45 surface-to-surface missiles, 26 weapons of various types, and a large amount of ammunition were seized by the Armed Forces.

Briefs

Gas Protocol With USSR

An agreement on the export of natural gas from the Republic of Afghanistan to the USSR was signed today between the Ministry of Mines and Industries and the Soviet All-Union Soyuzgazeksport. The agreement was signed for the Ministry of Mines and Industries by ('Abdul Tawab Barak), deputy minister for the petroleum and gas industries, and on the Soviet side by (Yuriy Dorachov), deputy of the union [words indistinct]. The Soviet deputy trade representative and envoys of the Foreign Commerce Ministries and the State Planning Committee also were present during signing. [Text] [*Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 88 LD*]

Kabul-Moscow Power Cooperation

Kabul, January 19, BAKHTAR—A protocol on direct cooperation between the power organisation departments of Kabul and Moscow was signed here yesterday. Based on the protocol, power department of Moscow will give as gratis aid to Kabul power equipment and tools for transformer repair workshop and petrol storage valued at over one million roubles. Also it will assist Kabul in training professional cadres. Exchange of experience and facilitates for recreation for children and families of workers of the Ministry of Power Energy of the Republic of Afghanistan are also envisaged in the protocol. The protocol was signed on the Afghan side by Muhammed Paktin, minister of power energy and on the Soviet side by Makarov, head of the Power Department delegation of Moscow City. [Text] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 20 Jan 88 LD*]

Hashish Seized in Kabul

Kabul, January 23, BAKHTAR—The personnel of the Department of Campaign Against Crimes in the Ministry of Interior discovered and seized recently one thousand four hundred and five kilograms of hashish in the village of Botkhak of Bagrami District of Kabul Province. 4,772 kg opium, 292 kg heroin and 9,304 kg hashish which had been transferred from Pakistan to the country by extremist elements related to international smuggling networks were seized by the members of the department in the last three months. [Text] [*Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 24 Jan 88 LD*]

Bangladesh

Further on Opposition Party Activities

Government Offices 'Ransacked'

BK251544 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Jan 25 (AFP)—Opposition mobs ransacked two government offices during a half-day general strike Monday in protest at the death of up to 14 people shot by police Sunday, officials and witnesses said.

Angry mobs attacked this port city's municipal office and attempted to set fire to the building's ground floor before being dispersed by police and paramilitary troops, they said.

Mobs also ransacked the local office of the government Press Information Department during the strike which ended Monday afternoon.

Police had opened fire here Sunday on a crowd about to be addressed by opposition Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

The government said in a statement from Dhaka Sunday midnight that five people died, 14 were seriously injured and several were arrested when police fired on mobs attacking them with hand grenades and brickbats.

But the official death toll rose when four people died overnight from their injuries, hospital sources said.

The Chittagong medical college hospital director said it had handed over seven corpses to police by Monday, and at least 14 people at the hospital were still in critical conditions.

The opposition has called for a nationwide dawn-to-dusk general strike Tuesday to protest the police firings.

In Dhaka, anti-government students Monday set ablaze a government vehicle and organized marches to protest the bloody incidents in Chittagong. Major opposition groups also organised rallies and marches in the city calling for people to participate in Tuesday's general strike.

Sheikh Hasina said at a press conference that up to 10 people were killed and hundreds injured Sunday. She blamed the government for the killings, saying they were part of a conspiracy against the opposition.

A Dhaka daily Monday quoted her as saying the police action was "pre-planned and appeared to be an attempt to assassinate me".

No official comment on her allegation was immediately available.

The daily NEW NATION said seven people were killed and nearly 300 injured, including 17 security force men. It said 53 people were admitted to hospitals.

Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, condemned the police action, saying in a statement that "the orgy of killing has once again exposed the undemocratic character of the government".

Monday's half-day strike here ended without any reports of major violence.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE correspondent said about 500 people attacked a municipal office of the city, breaking windows and setting light to furniture.

Witnesses said small groups of opposition activists marched through the streets shouting anti-government and police slogans. One group threw stones at the local election commission office, but no major damage was reported.

Monday is the last day for filing nominations for the March 3 parliamentary elections which the opposition, including the eight-party alliance headed by Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda's seven-party combine, have agreed to boycott.

The last day had been set for Saturday, but the National Election Commission announced a last-minute extension without giving a reason.

The opposition, which includes a five-party left wing alliance and the right wing Jamiat-i Islami Party, has called for nationwide protests to oppose the poll, which they say will be farcical without their participation.

They have demanded President Hussain Mohammad Ershad resign and hand power to a neutral, caretaker government that would oversee a general election.

Buildings Set on Fire

BK260340 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] A half-day program was observed in Chittagong yesterday. BSS reports that supporters of the program set on fire the Chittagong municipal corporation office, damaging property. They ransacked CGO [Chittagong Government Office] building at Adabad, some government offices, and the CNB [expansion unknown] office close by. They also set up road barricades and burnt tires. In the afternoon, a rally was jointly organized by eight-party, seven-party, and five-party alliances.

In Dhaka, the eight-party alliance held a meeting and discussed the latest political situation obtaining in the country after the Chittagong incident. Awami League chief and eight-party alliance leader, Sheikh Hasina, talking to newsmen in Dhaka, has demanded inquiry and trial of those responsible for the firing incident in Chittagong.

Meanwhile, BSS said two more injured persons have died at Chittagong medical college hospital. The hospital sources further said two more unidentified bodies were brought to the hospital from the spot of incident.

Strike Paralyzes Dhaka
BK260604 Hong Kong AFP in English 0558 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 26 (AFP)—A general strike in Bangladesh Tuesday called by the opposition paralysed Dhaka and main towns, witnesses and organisers said.

The strike was in protest at the deaths of up to 14 people Sunday [24 January] when police fired on opposition supporters in Chittagong, Bangladesh's main port. The opposition said hundreds were injured and many arrested.

The government said nine people died Sunday when police opened fire after they were attacked with hand grenades and bombs.

Most traffic stayed off Dhaka's streets Tuesday, markets and trading houses were shut and banks and other offices virtually without work, witnesses said.

The only vehicles seen on the streets were police jeeps, some state-owned buses and a few cycle rickshaws.

Several large explosions were heard in northern Dhaka, but no damage was reported.

Residents said small groups of opposition activists marched through roads in Dhaka's Motijheel, Azimpur, Rampura and other districts shouting anti-government slogans.

Police and paramilitary forces were posted at possible trouble points in the city, but there were no reports of confrontations.

Witnesses and strike organisers said the action had similar effects in other Bangladeshi towns Tuesday.

There was a half-day strike in Chittagong Monday, also in protest at the police shooting before a rally by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the opposition Awami League.

Sheikh Hasina described the incident as "cold-blooded murder" and demanded an inquiry.

New Order Banning Meetings, Rallies Issued
BK260320 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The government has canceled the Home Ministry's order of 27 November and issued a fresh order in the interest of public security, interest, and discipline. That order had prohibited participation in or holding of all kinds of processions, demonstrations, meetings, and rallies. An official handout issued in Dhaka last night said under the new order no meetings and rallies can be held either indoor or outdoor to resist the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] and municipal corporation elections or to create public opinion against such elections. Besides, no person will be allowed to take part in such meetings and rallies. It said no one can address anti-election meetings and rallies and no slogans can be raised and processions taken out in this connection. It also said no one will be allowed to indulge in any activities calculated to jeopardize the holding of such elections.

India

Spokesman Views Gandhi, Jayewardene Talks
BK251625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Excerpt] India and Sri Lanka today had preliminary exchange of views on a draft treaty on relations between the two countries. The draft treaty prepared by Sri Lanka figured at the talks the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had with President Jayewardene in New Delhi this evening.

Replying to queries by newsmen on the proposed treaty, an official spokesman said further discussions on it are envisaged. Replying to another question, he said India has an open mind on the proposed treaty. The two leaders met for about 30 minutes without aides. They were then joined by the delegations, and the meeting lasted for 60 minutes. Mr Gandhi and Mr Jayewardene undertook a broad review of developments in the island since the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. There was an in-depth exchange of views on recent developments, including operations by the peacekeeping force.

During the discussions, Mr Gandhi stressed the importance of reviving political processes to bring back normalcy to the island country as envisaged in the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. President Jayewardene gave his assessment about the processes of implementation of the agreement. The two sides agreed that there will be ministerial-level meeting between the two countries in the next few days on the implementation of the agreement. It was also agreed to create conditions for return of refugees and displaced persons of all communities in Sri Lanka to their homes.

The prime minister was assisted by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh; the minister of state for science and technology, Mr K.R. Narayanan; the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon; and the Indian ambassador in Colombo, Mr Dixit. The Sri Lankan delegation included the cabinet ministers Mr Gamini Dissanayake and Mr Lalith Athulathmudali.

President Jayewardene also had a meeting with President Venkataraman. They were together for about 1/2 an hour. [passage omitted]

Venkataraman Hosts Dinner

BK260411 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has said that the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement is a reiteration of India's commitment to the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the island nation. He was speaking at the banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, in New Delhi last night. Mr Venkataraman said Indo-Sri Lankan relations are entering a new phase of vigor and substance as both countries recognize each other's interests and concerns. He said the agreement acknowledges the island's multi-ethnic, multilinguistic, and pluralistic society and offered all groups an opportunity to play their role in the life of the country. The president said the peacekeeping force [PKF], which was sent to Sri Lanka to assist in the smooth implementation of the agreement, is facing a challenging task. He said the PKF will carry out its mandate in Sri Lanka undaunted by the vicissitudes they face.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives in Delhi

BK251559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The Algerian foreign minister, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, arrived in New Delhi today on a 6-day visit to India. Dr Taleb, who is leading a high-level delegation, was received at the airport by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, and senior officials of the minister.

Dr Taleb later met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and apprised him of the latest political situation in West Asia.

Meets With Gandhi

LD251349 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] The Indian prime minister held talks in New Delhi today with Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Political Bureau member and minister of foreign affairs. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and various international topics. Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived in New Delhi this morning for a 6-day visit.

3d 'Conventional' Soviet Submarine Arrives

BK251558 Hong Kong AFP in English 1452 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 25 (AFP)—India's third conventional submarine from the Soviet Union has entered service with the country's expanding naval fleet of long-range vessels, Defence Ministry officials said Monday.

The vessel, renamed "Sindhu Raj" (Ocean King), is the third kilo-class Soviet submarine to join the Indian Navy since September 1986. It has already been deployed for exercises in the Bay of Bengal, the official added. They did not disclose exactly when the submarine reached India, but said the vessel's warfare systems have been modified to meet the requirements of the Indian Navy. They did not elaborate.

India has bought the kilo-class submarines as frontline assault vessels because of their capability to fire multiple grade torpedoes, technology and wider bodies to reduce operational noise.

A Soviet-built SSBN-1 class nuclear-powered submarine is also scheduled to reach India's southeastern coast in the next few weeks. The vessel has officially been leased for training purposes and India says it does not carry nuclear warheads.

India also purchased two German-built submarine-to-submarine-killer [SSK] class vessels last year and plans to expand its existing fleet of 13 submarines, eight of them being Soviet Foxtrot-class.

The Foxtrot vessels are to be gradually phased out and replaced by more SSK submarines.

Tripartite Talks Held on Gurkha Issue 25 Jan

BK260406 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The first tripartite talks between the home minister, Mr Buta Singh; the West Bengal chief minister, Jyoti Basu; and the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leader, Mr Subhash Ghising, were held in New Delhi yesterday. An official press release issued at the end of the meeting said substantial progress was made toward finding an agreed solution to the problem of the Darjeeling Hill areas. The release also said that the final tripartite meeting will be held in Calcutta next week. Mr Jyoti Basu also called on the prime minister and discussed the problem of the Darjeeling Hill area.

Home Minister Comments on Tamil Nadu, Punjab

BK260445 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Mr Buta Singh [Union Home Minister] says that the Congress-I will continue to support the policies of Mr M.G. Ramachandran in Tamil Nadu. He was answering questions at an informal meeting with newsmen in New Delhi today. He described the developments in AIADMK as an internal matter of that party. About Punjab, the home minister said 325 terrorists were killed in 1987. The terrorists killed 909 people last year. The home minister said a detailed review of the situation in Punjab will be undertaken with the state administration. He said the attack on SGPC leader, Mr Kabul Singh, showed that terrorists want to eliminate important Sikh leaders who took a stand against terrorism. He repeated that the center is not averse to starting a dialogue on Punjab with the parties concerned provided they declare that they stand for the unity and integrity of the country and will abide by the constitution.

Meanwhile, in fresh incidents of violence in Punjab, six persons have been shot dead by terrorists since last night. The Patiala District president of the youth wing of the Unified Akali Dal, Mr Kuldip Singh, and two of his relatives were shot dead in (Delamajara) village last night. According to an official spokesman, in Gurdaspur District, terrorists shot dead two shopkeepers in village Chuhawal and the headmaster of a school in village Ranghirpur.

Meanwhile, the condition of former SGPC and senior Akali Dal leader, Mr Kabul Singh, is improving.

5 Killed By 'Extremists' in Tripura District

BK260758 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] In Tripura, the TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists killed five members of a family at Kalachara village in South Tripura District last night. According to the police sources, the killed included a man and wife along with their three sons.

Correction to Commentary on India's Nuclear Arms

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Commentary Criticizes India's Nuclear Stand," published in the 22 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 71-72:

Page 72, column one, paragraph four, line two: ...scholar Dr Spector recalled the Indian... (clarifying name)

Iran

Editorial on Impartiality of Election Supervisors

PM251143 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Jan 88 p 2

[Editorial by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Ansari Kermani: "Are the Election Supervisors at the Council Of Guardians Impartial?"]

[Text] There are many delicate and sensitive issues and discussions that surround the many facets of the Imam's—may the Lord bless his soul—messages and replies to the letters from the minister of labor, the Council of Guardians, and the president. These messages are in effect the key to secrets which, God willing, the analysts, thinkers, and those who are sympathetic, as well as those who wish to serve the oppressed, will use to the utmost. It is to be hoped that these people will prevent these messages from being killed off in the dark slaughterhouses of mistakes and events.

It is best if I now keep quiet, refrain from talking about my pain, and leave that to the experts.

However, the one issue connected with this subject that must be taken very seriously and not passed over lightly is the question of elections. The fate of elections is completely dependent on the impartiality of supervisors, especially those from the Council of Guardians. I hope that, God willing, this example that I am about to give is not going to cause dissension—and I swear to this, although the question remains whether anyone will believe my intentions.

His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami Kashani, spokesman for the Council of Guardians and temporary Friday imam of Tehran, says clearly and sternly that the supervisors are chosen from among those who are impartial and that anyone with anything to say on the matter should say it. This is one side of the story. The other side becomes clear when we look at the actions taken by Mr Emami Kashani himself in his sermons at the Friday prayers. When we examine these sermons, we see that he himself has stepped aside from this position of neutrality.

A Friday imam has no other responsibility than to discuss the issues facing the Islamic society and its leadership. Quite contrary to the expectations of the tens of thousands of people gathered for prayers at Tehran University, quite contrary to the will of the millions of people who, through radio and television, were thirsty for the imam's declarations to be clarified, Mr Emami Kashani talked about various issues that the people have heard about tens and hundreds of times before. Without any justification and without paying the slightest attention, he completely bypassed the imam's viewpoints.

Really, there is no excuse for this other than party and group-minded behavior. When society sees a high official of the Council of Guardians, in the position of spokesman and prayer leader, acting so one-sidedly, how can this same society then believe that the rule of impartiality is maintained when choosing election supervisors? How can they believe that Mr Emami Kashani, who is responsible for overseeing elections, will not pursue the same type of viewpoint when it comes to elections? Are they really concerned to see the right people chosen by the people's vote?

God knows, I am saying this because of what I feel. Our people expect these officials and personalities to stick to the main issues and not be affected by various inclinations. Is it not painful that nothing is mentioned during the Friday prayers about the contents of the imam's replies?

Unfortunately many groups and views allow themselves to distort the truth and at the same time claim to be obedient followers of traditional religious jurisprudence, all the while labeling others by saying that they confused issues. The prime example of this can be seen in the RESALAT newspaper headline taken from the replies given by his holiness the imam to the president. This comes from those people who claim to be followers. Of course, if another newspaper misses one letter by mistake, these same people start shouting: Why are you committing treason? Yet, at the same time they allow themselves to distort things.

In one section of his reply to Mr Khamene'i, the imam said: "Your interpretation of what I said—that is, that the government has jurisdiction within the framework of divine injunctions—is in fact contradictory to what I actually said." The gentlemen at RESALAT removed the word "interpretation," creating a headline out which read: "What I said—that is, that the government has jurisdiction within the framework of divine injunctions—is in fact contradictory to what I said." Using this distortion, the meaning that comes across quite clearly is that the imam means to say: My previous position on government powers is different from or is completely opposed to those views that I hold today.

Are these actions deliberate, or are they mistakes, made in ignorance? But if this is the case, why do these gentlemen always end up going in that direction? Why is it that, when the imam prenounces one sentence in favor of the Council of Guardians, these gentlemen strongly affirm it saying "hear hear," whereas in this particular case they remain silent?

What excuse does Mr Emami Kashani come up with? Perhaps you might say that, because the message was broadcast on Thursday morning, there was not enough time before the Friday prayers! There was not enough attention paid to it: This excuse is worse than a sin. How can the message that was on international telexes 1 hour after it was broadcast, that was mentioned on all the foreign radios, not have reached these gentlemen?

The second point is: What are the dear brothers of the Friday prayer headquarters doing? Why is it that, when a speaker makes a slight mistake, he is told at once? How come people are invited in advance for various reasons and then told what to say, yet in this case everything is forgotten? If they say that they thought silence was better, then this is an effort against the word itself, because the imam deems it better to divulge while these gentlemen think silence is more prudent.

In any case we believe that, in view of the positions recently taken, there are serious doubts about elections and the supervisors. Of course we are not passing judgement on all the supervisors; but, in order to remove all the doubts, there has to be some serious thought to keep elections healthy.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Arab League Stance

LD252012 Tehran IRNA in English 1841 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry today criticised the Arab League foreign ministers' meet in Tunisia, for its impotence to take a strong and decisive stance on the uprising of the oppressed Muslims in occupied Palestine.

In a statement issued here the Foreign Ministry expressed regret that the sacred cause of Palestine continues to receive the least possible support whether financial or spiritual from those claiming to work for the liberation of Palestine. "These claimants have always pooled their investment to push the Palestinian revolution to a compromise," it added.

The Palestinian uprising is a clear response to the treachery of the dependant regimes to this sacred cause particularly after the Arab summit in Amman, said the statement.

The statement reiterating that Palestine remains a major and vital issue of the Muslim world, said the Al-Quds occupying regime "that cancerous tumor," is the root of existing tensions in the region. "Annihilation of the Zionist regime is the only way for resolving the Palestinian issue," it stressed.

It also thanked progressive Arab countries for their efforts to help continue the Palestinian uprising, and promised decisive support for the struggling Palestinian Muslims. All political resources should be mobilized for a fateful struggle against the Zionist enemy, the statement concluded.

Representatives of Iraq, Kuwait, Hijaz, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco and the Yemen Arab Republic held a session chaired by head of the Arab League Chedli Klibi in Tunisia Sunday night to study their collective position vis-a-vis the Muslims' uprising in occupied Palestine.

International Support Urged for Palestinians

LD251527 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Lack of action on the part of the Arab League's ministerial session in Tunisia is the title of our first commentary today.

The extraordinary session of Arab League foreign ministers ended its work in Tunis promising to increase its financial and political aid to the Palestinians. This session, held following a request made by Libya and a few other Arab countries in response to the uprising in occupied Palestine, decided to organize a ministerial commission to seek peace in the region through the United Nations and other international bodies. The resolution of the session of the Arab foreign ministers calls on the UN Security Council to pay more attention to its responsibilities in ending the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to ask Israel to implement the Geneva convention on occupied territories. [passage omitted]

At present, 15 members of the Arab League, in addition to the PLO, maintain political relations with Egypt. Only Algeria, Syria, Libya, the PDRY, and Lebanon have not resumed their relations with Cairo. In view of this, it is clear that, unlike in the past, the Arab League cannot press for the severance of Egypt's relations with the Zionist regime. This is at a time when many Middle East specialists believe that acceptance of the Camp David accord and the Egyptian regime's commitment to it are among the factors behind the continuation of Palestine's occupation by the Zionist regime.

At the same time, the resolution passed by the Arab foreign ministers ignores the realities of the situation in occupied Palestine and sidesteps the issue of practical measures to support the people whose land is under occupation. The extraordinary session of the Arab ministers should have opted for global diplomatic measures to isolate the Zionist regime and to encourage and persuade those countries with such relations to review them, instead of insisting on the same old demands for the formation of an international conference which, in fact, takes advantage of the uprising in the occupied Palestine.

At present, as a result of negligence on the part of many Arab and Islamic governments, many African and Latin American countries have resumed their relations with the Zionist regime. Expansion of the Zionist influence in Africa and Latin America stems from the compromising stance of those governments which are not even prepared to ask the Egyptian regime, ruling over an Arab and Islamic country, to sever its relations with the Zionists in an effort to show real support for the Palestinian people's uprising. Therefore, all Islamic and freedom-seeking countries, in addition to the Arab League members, should begin offering real support for the Palestinian uprising and review and implement solutions to the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

In circumstances where the situation is becoming increasingly difficult for the occupying regime, practical and popular support on a regional and world level is needed for the Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine in order to prepare the ground for the liberation of the occupied territories.

Tehran Notes Iraqi 'Concern' Over Gulf Trends

NC230905 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0354 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group: "The Iraqi Regime's Deep Concern Over the Realistic Inclinations of the Persian Gulf's Littoral Governments"]

[Text] In the wake of realistic wishes expressed by Persian Gulf littoral governments for ensuring the region's security and the search for a way to emerge from the crisis created by the arrival of U.S. and European troops, Iraq's state-owned press has spectacularly increased its criticism of this trend, describing it as contrary to the recent decisions of the Arab League conference in Amman. This stems from the fact that during recent years, and particularly since the revelation of the weakness of the Iraqi Army in confronting the combatants of Islam, Saddam's regime has actively tried to spread the war to other countries in one way or another and to bring foreign powers into the scene of the conflict in a bid to pave the way for its escape from the perilous situation it had created. Of course, in its efforts to implement this policy, the Iraqi regime has resorted to various means, such as spreading and exacerbating the crisis and unrest in the Persian Gulf, and scaring the small governments in this area in a bid to push them into practical hostility with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, on the international scene, the Iraqi regime has made a great effort to portray the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war as an extremely dangerous element threatening world peace and the flow of oil to Western countries, thereby trying to internationalize the war and draw the superpowers directly into the conflict. Of course, the coordinated Baghdad-Washington efforts to obtain unity among the UN Security Council members in confronting the Islamic Republic of Iran should be studied within this context. Moreover, the Kuwaiti Government's requests to the United States and the Soviet Union, and the arrival of U.S. and European troops in the Persian Gulf which took place within the framework of the Iraqi regime's warmongering policies, succeeded—if only for a short time—in making the Persian Gulf littoral states think the active presence of foreign forces and the intensification of the conflicts could force the imposition of a peace favoring Iraq on the Islamic Republic of Iran, and ultimately prevent Islamic Iran from scoring a final victory. However, the resistance by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the weaknesses of the Western governments, and especially the recent remarks by U.S. officials about a possible reduction of U.S. forces stationed in the Persian Gulf, have once again reminded the governments of the Gulf's southern littoral states that relying on U.S., French, and British warships does not promise a very bright future; this will also pose many serious and basic problems for them in the future as well. Thus, these governments are trying to make changes in their one-sided inclinations.

At any rate, as previously stated, the Islamic Republic of Iran insists that: 1) foreign troops must leave the area as soon as possible; 2) the security of Persian Gulf waters must be ensured only by the forces of Persian Gulf littoral states; and 3) these governments should end their support for the Iraqi regime and stop their practical hostility against the Muslim Iranian nation if they wish to have friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Relying on foreign forces and following the Iraqi regime's warmongering policies can only lead to an intensification of the war and conflict in the Persian Gulf region. Moreover, it is very obvious that the new criticisms in the Iraqi press stem from the recent developments Saddam's regime is seeing—signs of an easing of the current tensions in the Persian Gulf and of a possible reduction of the support it receives. Therefore, it would be opportune for the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states—in view of the developments of the past few months and the true motives of Saddam's regime—not to become further involved in Baghdad's and Washington's dangerous creation of tension, but to rather concentrate on reestablishing security and calm in the sensitive Persian Gulf region. If the war and conflict flare up, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to resist decisively and bravely, and will continue its just war until it achieves final victory and crushes the aggressors.

Implications of Carlucci Gulf Tour Analyzed

NC222205 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Jan 88

[From the "Weekly Report" program]

[Excerpts] The events in the Persian Gulf are taking a new form. A series of visits to countries in the southern part of the Gulf confirms this statement, and the dispatch of political messages to the Islamic Republic of Iran by some of these countries clearly endorses this observation.

A major part of the developments in the Gulf is linked to U.S. policy and the role of its military forces in the region. The Gulf issue was discussed during U.S. Secretary of Defense Carlucci's visit to Kuwait, Bahrain, and Hijaz. This U.S. Government official's visit to the Persian Gulf, as viewed by the world and region's political-propagandistic circles, is expected to produce practical results in the form of a change in the balance of the U.S. forces' military presence, as well as in the policies and mode of its naval operations. The situation facing America in the Persian Gulf during the past few months dictates the need for such changes.

Following a series of events in the Persian Gulf, culminating in the resignation of Weinberger and his replacement by Carlucci, the U.S. forces and policy in this region seemed insensible and contemptibly ambivalent. Under such circumstances, and amid numerous reports on U.S. failure in the region and the impotence of its forces in attaining their predetermined objectives, Carlucci initiated his visit. Such an atmosphere tangibly affected Carlucci's visit and confronted him with many questions. Despite Reagan's denial of the possibility of changing U.S. policy in the region, Defense Secretary Carlucci's direct and implied remarks merely affirmed such a change. [passage omitted]

In order to better comprehend the real direction of such a policy, one must examine the past months' events and developments in the Gulf region, which are still evolving. Following the arrival of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, clashes and hostilities increased, providing concrete proof that the U.S. wants to create tension. These events can be considered an automatic and undesirable result of the Americans' adoption of a reactive posture in the region. However, other occurrences—the most important being the instigation of bloody conflict during the hajj—prove that creating a tense and turbulent atmosphere is important to U.S. policy under the present conditions.

The ensuing events in such an atmosphere further confirm that U.S. policy in the region continues to tread its previous path; the present changes seem to complement that policy and seem more understandable. The rallying together of the regional governments and the mobilization of the Arab reactionaries against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was overtly approved at the Amman summit, is deemed by U.S. policymakers as a positive result of the presence of foreign forces in the region. The creation of such conditions, from which new political alliances emerged, not only brought a suitable substitute for U.S. forces in the region, but also presented the possibility of keeping future developments under control for a predictable period of time.

Mubarak's visits, which have been instrumental in forging fresh unions in the Persian Gulf, indicate that these liaisons have entered a decisive, practical phase. The coincidence of his visit—during which Mubarak emphasized the role of the Egyptian regime in preserving the security and stability of the littoral Arab states—with that of the U.S. defense secretary, who mentioned the possibility of reducing U.S. forces in the region, becomes more meaningful in this regard. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that in the foreseeable future, Egypt will not play a very expansive role in the Gulf, an objective for which it will have to adopt many changes. Therefore, as the liaisons in the Gulf have been formed to create equilibrium in the region in general, and to exert political pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran in particular, the present hostilities and differences should not be permitted to become excessive.

In addition to replacing forces and changing policies, stability must be restored and tension must be reduced in the region. The inclination of the littoral states of the Persian Gulf to improve relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to create peace and to reduce tension in the region should be viewed against this backdrop. The communications during the past few weeks indicate that this inclination for peace is in the process of being speedily implemented.

Although numerous factors are contributing to stabilizing the present situation, a fundamental factor instrumental to bringing about change and disrupting all equilibrium and relations betwen the regional forces is at work. The experience of imposed war over the past few years has proved that whenever fresh ties or balances emerge, a successful military operation by the Islamic combatants dissipates everything once again.

Pakistanis Demonstrate, Lament Al-Hakim Death

NC230954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Telephone report by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad—recorded]

[Text] After the Friday prayer ceremonies, large groups of Muslim Pakistanis staged massive demonstrations in central Rawalpindi. They expressed their support for the Islamic struggle by the people in the occupied [Arab] territories and condemned the crime of the Zionist Iraqi regime in martyring Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Mahdi al-Hakim.

Before the marches, the demonstrators listened to speeches by scholar Arif Hussain Hussaini, leader of Pakistan's Ja'farite sect, and scholar Shaykh (Mohsen Najafi), an outstanding Pakistani ulema. In his speech scholar Arif Hussain Hussaini lauded martyr Sayyid Mahdi al-Hakim's struggles against Saddam's infidel regime, congratulated and offered condolences to the Muslims of the world on the martyrdom of this combatant clergyman, and condemned the Iraqi regime for murdering him. In another part of his speech, the leader of Pakistan's Ja'farite sect called on the Iraqi nation not to fear Saddam's bloodthirsty and criminal regime and to establish an Islamic rule in Iraq through an Islamic uprising led by Imam Khomeyni. Scholar Arif Hussain Hussaini also lauded the Islamic struggles in occupied Palestine and called for the continuation of this Islamic uprising.

Scholar Shaykh (Mohsen Najafi), another combatant Pakistani clergyman compared and condemned the crimes of the regime occupying Jerusalem and the Zionist regime of Iraq.

The demonstrators started chanting slogans of "Death to America," "Death to Israel," and "Death to Saddam" and commenced their spectacular march toward the center of the city. They also carried placards bearing the slogans "We Demand Revenge for the Blood Shed by the Children of Isalm," "War, War Until the Destruction of America," and "War, War Until the Liberation of Jerusalem." The demonstrations ended with prayers for the victory of Islamic movements in the world, especially in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Leaves for Bangkok

LD241603 Tehran IRNA in English 1439 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani leading a high-ranking political delegation flew to Bangkok Sunday for a three-day official visit.

Larijani will confer with high ranking Thai officials on political and economic issues.

Hungary's Deputy Foreign Minister Visits

Meets With Velayati, Besharati

LD242054 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA—Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gyula Horn discussed Tehran-Budapest relations as well as international and regional issues including the on going Palestinian uprising, with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting here today.

The two sides deplored the atrocities of the Zionist regime against the Palestinian Muslims in the meeting, where Horn Condemned the Zionist regime's repression against the defenceless Palestinians.

In reply Velayati said the uprising in occupied Palestine reveals the will of a people who are determined to decide their own fate after the failure of all political ways.

Meanwhile, Horn called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf, in a separate meeting with acting foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here on the [word indistinct] Hungarian deputy minister [words indistinct] forces in the Persian Gulf has exacerbated regional tension. He also termed the expanding bilateral relations between Iran and Hungary as "positive."

Besharati in response drew attention to the U.S. violation of the Security Council Resolution 598 and said Washington is trying to use the resolution as a political lever against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The two sides also reviewed international developments as well as the coming visit of the Hungarian prime minister to Tehran.

Horn arrived here this morning for a four-day visit, and will leave for Budapest Wednesday.

Horn, Mo'ayeri View Relation

LD251307 Tehran IRNA in English 1259 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—The visiting Hungarian deputy foreign minister, Gyula Horn met with Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri here Monday and discussed with him bilateral relations, regional issues and other matters of mutual interest.

Mo'ayeri, referring to common political and economic ties between the two countries, called for expansion of Tehran-Budapest relations to a desirable level.

He also expressed satisfaction over Hungary's stance on the necessity of withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the Persian Gulf, saying that the task of maintaining security in the region rests solely on regional countries. The ddeputy premier made it clear that foreign powers will never be able to restore security to the region, adding that the U.S. has not only failed to maintain regional security but on the contrary has heightened tension in the region.

In response, Horn underlined the necessity for further promotion of mutual relations and said that preparations were being made for an official visit to Tehran by the Hungarian premier in response to the last year's visit to Budapest by Premiere Hoseyn Musavi. He said that Hungary has always announced its opposition to the presence of foreign naval fleets in the Persian Gulf.

Meets Agricultural Minister

LD251526 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—Visiting Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Gyula Horn called on Agriculture Minister 'Abbas-'Ali Zali here Monday to discuss the agenda of the forthcoming session of the joint Iran-Hungary economic commission in Tehran. The issues discussed by the two were focussed on mutual economic and agricultural cooperation. They also emphasized on the need for further expansion of Tehran-Budapest politico-economic ties.

Director Interviewed on Arms Production

LD251426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Studio interview with Engineer Golestaneh, director of the Weaponry Production Industries, by an unidentified correspondent—live or recorded; from the "Armed Forces Program"]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Would you please comment on achievements by the industry in attaining relative self-sufficiency and in satisfying the arms requirements of the Islamic combatants?

[Golestaneh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] I must note that our committed colleagues are making their utmost efforts to break the chains of dependence. At least three spheres have been improved: training, production, and, ultimately, consumption. As for training matters, may I note we have kicked out foreign advisers and that in return we have tried to enhance the capabilities and technical know-how of our staff by arranging manpower training courses for our committed personnel. We are now employing the best technicians.

As for production, three major tasks have been achieved. First, a great effort was made to increase the production capacity of the industry to meet the needs of the fronts. Second, attention was paid to mother industries so that the maximum number of production machines could be made. By the grace of God we are using machine-tool manufacturing plants which can provide the majority of our various needs such as molds, (?grinders), tools such as drills, and metal-shaping tools, and also grinding disks.

We are also able to manufacture most of our spare parts for our production tools in the country. The products I have noted so far are comparable with their foreign counterparts. The third task in the sphere of production was the attempt to make a substantial change to improve production technology and to increase the useful life of our products as recommended by His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Also as regards consumption, we have tried to reduce the items needed by employing new production techniques which permit us to dispense with formed and shaped items that would have been procured, usually at greater expense. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In view of the fronts' growing needs for domestically manufactured weapons and also the main objective of our order for domestic weapons production, could you comment on efforts to increase weaponry production and diversity of products?

[Golestaneh] We manufacture weapons, light weapons, and some medium weapons. In all but a few cases which have recently entered production and which, God willing, will reach our combatants in future years, we have satisfied without fail the need of the fronts. We have proved that whenever improved production was required we could fully succeed in doing this.

For example, we improved by 100 percent the production of an antitank weapon, as recommended by His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, during a Friday sermon some years ago when he commented that if we could not make tanks we could make antitank units which could be fired at close range from the shoulders of our brave combatants.

In addition, production has increased from the five items which were produced before the revolution and, with God's help, will reach 20 in all during the coming year [from 21 March 1988]. A light assault weapon and also a monopod designed for weapons have been in production for some time and, God willing, will be provided in the coming year. We will certainly be able to satisfy domestic needs in the course of a few years. A type of assault mortar and a [word indistinct] weaponry item as well as a defensive weapon for our brave naval personnel have been available for 2 years.

Some other important cases are also involved which I beg leave of our martyr-nurturing ummah not to mention until they have been tested and until their firepower has been experienced on the battle fronts against Islam's enemies. [passage omitted]

We are at the stage where, with the approval of Islamic Republic of Iran officials, we can export all our products to all of the world's oppressed. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] My last question is: Can you tell us what difference is there in the trend of activities by the Weaponry Production Industries since you expelled the so-called foreign experts after the revolution?

[Golestaneh] We have been operating for 8-9 years since the foreign advisers were expelled. In that time our staff have shown they can produce and invent on their own without the disruption of the same foreign advisers. [passage omitted]

Some foreign states recently witnessed in Iran some trials when we tested the quality of our weapons against theirs. It was a wonderful time for them to see what we had achieved without those advisers. I appeal to the combatants who use Iran-made weapons to look after their weapons which rival and are even better than those from the main arms suppliers.

Islamic Front Forces Destroy Iraqi Positions
LD261202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Two Zionist enemy positions around the town of Zur in Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq were destroyed by the United Islamic Front Forces [Niruha-ye Jebhe-ye Mottahed-e Eslami]. According to the Central News Unit, quoting the Ramadan Headquarters, the United Islamic Front Forces, in two separate operations in Sulaymaniyah Province, destroyed 2 security posts and killed or wounded 13 Saddamists. By establishing a roadblock and an inspection post on the Sayyid Sadiq-Shirwan Road, these forces controlled the trafffic on that road for a time.

SAIRI Official Dies of 'Chemical Injuries'
LD261043 Tehran IRNA in English 1020-GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Executive Director of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Abu Dharr al-Hasan died in a Tehran hospital Monday night where he was receiving treatment for chemical injuries. Al-Hasan was exposed to chemical gases deployed by the Iraqi regime near Hajj 'Umran about two months ago. The Assembly in a statement Tuesday deplored his martyrdom. His funeral ceremonies are scheduled here for Wednesday.

Pakistan

UN's Cordovez Returns Following Talks in Kabul
BK261027 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 26 Jan 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, returned to Islamabad after having talks with leaders of the Kabul administration this afternoon. Diego Cordovez is on a tour of the region to make preparations for the next round of indirect talks on the Afghan issue in Geneva.

9 Killed, 21 Injured in Peshawar Bomb Blast
BK251531 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] A bomb blast has been reported at the Mongara bus stand. The blast occurred aboard a Lahore-bound bus of the government transport service this afternoon. Nine persons were killed and 21 injured as a result of the explosion. The deputy commissioner of Swat told Radio Pakistan's Peshawar correspondent that the injured have been admitted to the Saidu Sharif Hospital where the condition of four is said to be serious.

Editorial Advocates Political Prisoner Review
BK251337 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Jan 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Rank Injustice"]

[Text] Once again, in the current parliamentary session, the issue of judicial review of the cases of hundreds of political prisoners sentenced by martial law courts has been raised in the Senate and the National Assembly. There is overwhelming prima facie evidence to suggest that the prisoners are the victims of a gross miscarriage of justice. These people, for the most part, politically motivated young men in their teens or early twenties, were handed down tough sentences by courts presided over by gentlemen whose knowledge of the law was highly questionable, following procedures that were arbitrary. Certainly, justice in these cases does not seem to have been done.

The Prime Minister himself, on more than one occasion, gave the assurance that the matter of political prisoners sentenced by military courts would be looked into. The one concrete step that he took in this regard was the appointment of a parliamentary committee to make recommendations about a review procedure for so-called "hardship cases". The committee formed in January 1986 took a year and a half to complete its report which has been gathering dust on the Prime Minister's table for the last six months. So much for the sense of urgency which attends the Government's handling of the issue.

But what is even more disturbing is the use of the term "hardship cases." As the Minister of Justice explained in the Senate the other day, the committee had been set up to deal with the humanitarian aspects of these cases. This would suggest that the reason for a possible review can only be the unfortunate circumstances of some individuals calling for compassion and not—this is significant—the setting right of a wrong perpetuated on the hapless victims through the provision of a straightforward legal remedy for all concerned. It indicates an unwillingness to let law and justice take their course by entrusting the matter to the superior courts i.e. allow the accused the fundamental privilege of trial in an open court, granted incidentally, as far back as 1861 by the British colonisers.

As for the observation made by the minister that relief under a judicial process was already available to those punished by military courts vide decisions handed down by the Lahore and Sind High Courts, it appears to be an entirely uncalled for attempt to mislead those who have already undergone considerable suffering.

As the Minister must know fully well, the said judgments do not have the effect of affording the great majority of the over 300 people involved, the opportunity to seek redress under ordinary law in the higher courts of the land. Only appropriate measures, including legislation in parliament by the majority party, can make that possible. However, this is something that Mr Junejo and his government have clearly and consistently fought shy of. Mr Ahir, the interior minister, never tires of reminding us that the sentences passed down by martial law courts cannot be questioned mainly because the eighth constitutional amendment pushed through by the National Assembly, among other things, validated the decisions handed down by these courts. All the more reason why his party should find a way out of the mess.

But here it becomes a matter not of ways or means, but of will. Is the government really serious about doing anything for these prisoners, some of whom are still kept in fetters and chains. Or is it simply unwilling to concede its indifference to their plight for the reason that it might be politically inexpedient to do so. If, in the end, the belief that it does provide is token in nature and is based on a procedure that is selective, restricted, and arbitrary, it shall indeed have provided us with the answer.

The Justice Minister has given a categorical undertaking that the Senate will be informed of the decision taken by the Prime Minister on the special committee report during the current session. We can only hope that his decision will make the long wait, by all concerned, a worthwhile one.

France To Supply Computerized Radar System

BK251343 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
17 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 16—Pakistan will receive most modern computerised radar system from France for its air surveillance, an informed source said.

The radars, costing some Rs200 crore, would be installed at Karachi, Lahore, Pasni, Islamabad, Rahimyar Khan, and Jiwani. The air surveillance system is being acquired on special orders of Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo.

These radars will detect any aircraft entering into Pakistan air space in minutes and when it comes within the hit target of Pakistan Air Force.

The report says that France has provided the first radar station of the sophisticated system to Pakistan which is currently being tested in Karachi. The second station will be installed in Islamabad or Lahore while similar stations will also become functioning in Jiwani, Rahimyar Khan, and Pasni by 1990. According to Defence Ministry sources, the radars will also guide civil aircraft overflying Pakistan by 1989-90.

Official Cited on Arms Production Capability

BK251040 Lahore JANG in Urdu
8 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Lahore—Pakistan ordnance factories chairman, Major General Talat Masud, said that Pakistan has not only acquired the capability of producing antitank and anti-aircraft missiles, rocket launchers and long-range missiles, but it is also exporting more than 20 percent of these weapons. He told a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday that world standard weapons are now being produced in Pakistan. Although there are no plants in Pakistan at present for producing fighter aircraft, we will soon achieve success in the field of aircraft manufacturing as well.

In reply to a question, he said that Pakistan has now become very strong in terms of defense and is capable of facing any challenge at any time. He said that our country has all the facilities for assembling and repairing tanks. Arrangements for the indigenous production of tanks are being studied under the guidance of the government, and tank production in the country is expected to start soon.

Maj Gen Talat Masud said that dependence on foreign countries for modern technology may prove very dangerous for Pakistan's security. Pakistani engineers and experts, instead of looking for foreign technology, should introduce new technology to the world. Pakistan has at present attained expertise in a number of fields and applied it in various industries.

He said that while producing defense items, the engineers should act cautiously as much as possible. Talat Masud said that the private sector should also invest in defense industries. We are importing special steel, plastic molding equipment, tools and gauges, etc. from foreign countries for defense production.

He said that we are in favor of commercial production of defense equipment and will welcome investment in defense industries. But the investors should keep in mind that dividends from these industries come after a period of time. He said that we wanted to bring the defense industry under the private sector, but is not yet possible because of bureaucratic and other reasons. He said that 40,000 people are linked with the ordnance factories.

Earlier, addressing the meeting, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, Mumtaz Hamid, said that a considerable portion of the nondevelopmental budget is currently being spent on the country's defense. But what is amazing is that a large chunk of this budget is being spent on the purchase of defense items from abroad. He said that numerous obstacles to investment in the defense sector have blocked new firms' entry into this industry. Therefore, the defense equipment producing firms should join the private sector and formulate a comprehensive program in this regard.

He said that we can be of much help and assistance to the ordnance factories. Pakistan indigenously produces 80 percent of the parts used in tractors. Defense firms should also be brought under the category of tax holiday industries. Mumtaz Hamid made a number of proposals to introduce the defense industry to the private sector.